

Kashmir Convener



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Will renew talks with PM on J&K's statehood: Omar Abdullah

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reiterated his demand for the restoration of statehood, stating that the promises made to the people must be honoured at all costs.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 42nd foundation day of SKIMS, Omar Abdullah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he said that people participated in droves in recent polls and that their commitment to the cause must be honoured. When asked about the declaration of holiday on the birth anniversary of National Conference founder Sheikh Abdullah, Omar said that they have a significant



battle ahead-to ensure Jammu and Kashmir regains its status as a state.

"This is not just about us but about the promises made by the Prime Minister to the people of J&K during parliamentary and assembly elections. People of J&K participated in those elections with full enthusiasm, hoping their trust would be honored." He added the Prime Minister and Home Minister were understandably occupied with polls in Maharashtra and elsewhere. "Now that those matters are resolved, we will talk to them again and expect them to fulfill their commitment to the people of J&K and restore its statehood without delay." On the issue of survey in Mosques and shrines across the country, Omar stressed the importance of India's secular foundation.

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Govt Not Functioning Without Powers: Dy CM

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy chief minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Thursday said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is not functioning without powers, but has the control and thus suspended employees for dereliction of duties.

"We don't want to act tough against employees, but they need to understand their responsibility like government is performing its job," Choudhary told the media persons in Jammu.

He said that there is a clear distribution



of power, everything is clear, who is saying Omar Abdullah-led government doesn't have powers.

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Work On 175-Km Gurdaspur-Jammu Pipeline Begins

Project to supply domestic gas by 2026

Umair Gull Ganie

JAMMU: Work has commenced on the 175-km Gurdaspur-Jammu Tawi natural gas pipeline project, which is expected to provide domestic gas to Jammu households by 2026.

GAIL (India) Ltd is undertaking the pipeline construction



along and across the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, with initial work already underway on sectionalizing valves in Kathua and Hiranagar.

Officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that this prestigious pipeline project involves developing essential infrastructure, including laying pipes, establishing pumping stations, and creating distribution networks.

"As a cleaner fossil fuel compared to coal and oil, natural gas will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, benefiting the environment and public health. The project aims to ensure an uninterrupted gas supply year-round, regardless of weather or road conditions," they said.

The tentative route of the main trunk pipeline is Gurdaspur-Pathankot-Kathua-Samba-

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Govt Planning To Start Medical University In SKIMS



Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah praised the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) for its "invaluable" contributions to the people of Jammu and Kashmir "despite the challenges it has faced over the years".

Speaking during the 42nd annual day function of SKIMS in Srinagar,

Abdullah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "SKIMS has emerged as a beacon of hope for the people of J&K. "Despite facing numerous odds, it has consistently delivered exceptional medical care, introduced advanced healthcare technologies, and nurtured talented medical professionals." Acknowledging the

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Restoring SKIMS
autonomy my
Govt's top priority

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the 42nd foundation day of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah his government's priority is to restore its autonomy, address staff shortages, and modernise equipment.

"SKIMS has given a lot to Jammu and Kashmir, far beyond expectations, despite difficulties, financial constraints, outdated equipment, and staff shortages," Omar Abdullah said, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

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Govt establishes
CM's public services
and outreach office in
Secretariat

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government has announced the establishment of the 'Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office' within the Chief Minister's Secretariat to ensure efficient grievance redressal and enhanced public service delivery through direct citizen engagement.

According to a government order issued on December 5, a copy of which lies with news agency KINS, the office will initially function with two specialized wings at the central level, each led by an officer of the rank of Special Secretary/Additional Secretary.

According to the order: Grievance Redressal Wing (Raabi-

ta): This wing will focus on the prompt resolution of grievances and oversee the performance of regional and district offices in addressing public concerns.

Public Outreach & Evaluation-cum-Feedback Wing: This division will engage with citizens through outreach programs, monitor the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), collect feedback

on governance and service delivery, and recommend improvements based on evaluations of government initiatives.

"To enhance accessibility and responsiveness, the office will utilize an integrated online grievance portal linked to the existing Samadhan Portal, enabling citizens

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**PDP Questions Intent
and Impact of Satellite
Townships Along
Srinagar Ring Road**

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief spokesperson Dr. Mehboob Beg on Thursday expressed serious concerns over the proposed satellite townships planned along the Ring Road project in Srinagar. He



questioned the intent behind these developments and their potential beneficiaries.

Addressing a press conference, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr. Beg said the Ring Road project, which connects Ganderbal, Pampore, to

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BOTTOM STORY

Govt Ignores PSI Age Relaxation Demand with 18-28 Limit, Overlooking Graduation Age Reality

● We only notify what is given to us by the deptt: JKSSB Chairperson

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) is facing criticism for its Sub-Inspector (Telecommunication) recruitment notification, which sets an unrealistic age limit of 18-28 years and a graduation requirement that doesn't align with typical educational timelines in India.

The notification specifies an age limit of 18-28 years, with a minimum educational qualification of graduation—a combination that has raised eyebrows and triggered



widespread debate. Aspirants took to social media to question the feasibility of an 18-year-old meeting the graduation requirement, given that students in India typically complete their undergraduate studies between the ages of

21 and 23.

The announcement has left many perplexed. Some have humorously remarked that for an 18-year-old to qualify, they would have to "crack IIT while still

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**Reserve list rule being
'misinterpreted',
allege JKPSA aspirants**

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Aspirants of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) have voiced strong discontent over the alleged misinterpretation of the "Reserve List" provision by the Commission, which they claim is being treated as a "waiting list."

Aspirants told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that this issue pertains to the implementation of the rules outlined in the Jammu and

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Winter vacations as per schedule: Minister Sakina Itoo

Arjumand Shah

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo has announced that winter vacations will proceed as scheduled this year, despite changes in the academic calendar, which saw annual examinations being conducted in October and November instead of March.

Speaking to reporters here, according to the news agency KINS, she highlighted the challenges faced by students due to the cold weather and called for an early start to winter vacations to alleviate their difficulties.

The Education Minister also addressed concerns regarding private school practices and urged parents facing issues, including excessive fees, to file formal complaints with her office or the department. "If a parent feels exploited, they should come forward and complain. No institution is above the rules, and we will ensure strict

action is taken against any violations," she stated.

Responding to criticism on social media and in the press, she stated



the importance of substantiated complaints. "Statements made on Facebook or in the media for self-promotion won't suffice. Provide evidence, and I assure you, action will be taken," she asserted. The minister reiterated

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Supreme Court quashes defamation proceedings against Union minister L Murugan

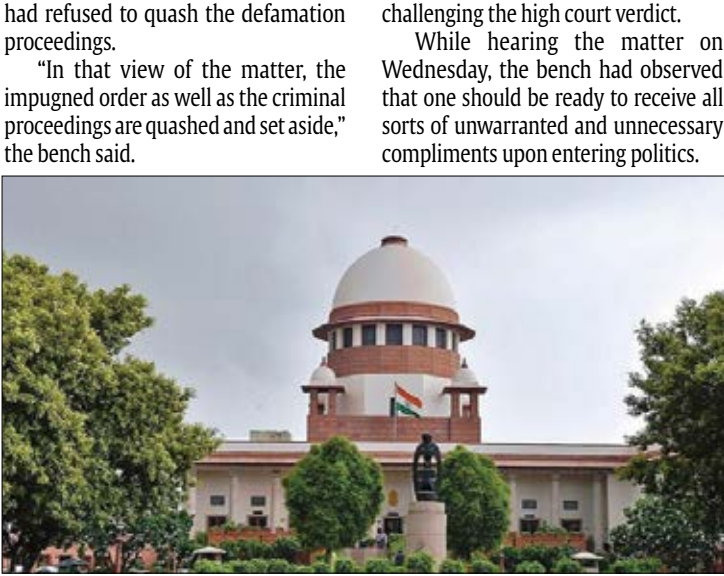
NEW DELHI, Dec 5: In a relief to union minister L Murugan, the Supreme Court on Thursday quashed criminal defamation proceedings against him on a complaint filed by the Chennai-based Murasoli Trust for his alleged defamatory statements at a press conference in December 2020.

A bench of Justices B R Gawai and K V Viswanathan passed the order after Murugan's counsels said the politician never intended either to defame the Trust or cause any harm or injury to its reputation.

The bench noted that the advocates appearing for the Trust have graciously stated that since Murugan has clarified that he had no intention to defame or cause harm or injury to the Trust, they do not intend to continue with the prosecution.

"We place on record our appreciation for the graciousness expressed by the respondent (Trust)," the bench said.

It set aside the September 5, 2023 order of the Madras High Court which



The apex court's order came on an appeal by Murugan, the Union minister of state for information and broadcasting, challenging the high court verdict.

While hearing the matter on Wednesday, the bench had observed that one should be ready to receive all sorts of unwarranted and unnecessary compliments upon entering politics.

sought a response from the Trust on his plea. Challenging the proceedings against him, Murugan previously moved the high court, which recorded the Trust's submission in its order that he made the statements "with an ulterior motive to degrade and tarnish the reputation of the Murasoli Trust in the eyes of the general public".

"While dealing with the quash petition, this court cannot go into the merits of the case or the disputed questions of fact. This court has to merely go by what is alleged in the complaint and prima facie find out as to whether the offence is made out," the high court had said.

While dismissing his plea, the high court directed a Chennai trial court to dispose of the case within three months.

"It is left open to the petitioner (Murugan) to raise all the grounds before the trial court and the same will be considered on its own merits and in accordance with law," it had said.

Lok Sabha Proceedings Disrupted Over BJP's Attempts To Link Opposition To Foreign Investor

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned twice on Thursday over BJP member Nishikant Dubey's remarks targeting Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and seeking to link him to a US-based multi-billionaire.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour at noon, Dubey claimed that the Congress-led opposition had tried to derail Parliament proceedings following reports in a publication based on findings of the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)



which had alleged links to the billionaire investor.

Congress members strongly objected to Dubey's remarks leading to uproar in the House. As the protests continued, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm.

Similar scenes were witnessed when the House re-assembled at 3 pm.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said the behaviour of the opposition was not acceptable.

"They (opposition) came into Parliament wearing colourful clothes, and outside Parliament, they have started a fashion show wearing those colourful clothes. This lowers the dignity of Parliament, and I condemn it. Such disruptions will achieve nothing; it won't fetch votes," Rijju said.

He was referring to leaders of several INDIA bloc parties wearing black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai".

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HORTICULTURE OFFICER BUDGAM

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Conduct of Farm Machinery Melas, Availability of Authorizations for Farmers, and Installation of Dealer Stalls

This is to inform all concerned that the Farm Machinery Melas for lifting of Farm Machinery by the eligible Farmers/Orchardists will be conducted as per the following schedule at the designated locations. Additionally, the authorizations for approved farmers under the allotted targets will be available at the respective Horticulture Development Offices (HDOs). Moreover, all registered Farm Machinery Dealers are required to install their stalls at the designated locations during the melas to provide their products and services to the participants. Farm Machinery Melas - Schedule and Designated Locations

The following Farm Machinery Melas are scheduled for the respective locations:

S. No.	Designated Location	Horticulture Zones to Participate	Date
01	FPN Gopalpora	Chadoora, BK Pora, Nagam, Kanir, Loolipora, Charisharief, Pakherpora & Kanidajan	09.12.2024
02	FPN Beerwah	Beerwah, Magam, Narbal, Khag & Arizal	10.12.2024
03	Budgam	Budgam, Kremshore, Khansahib, Soibugh & Watherail	12.12.2024

Instructions for Participants and Dealers

1. Horticulture Development Officers (HDOs) are instructed to ensure maximum participation of eligible Farmers from the designated zones.

2. Farmers and stakeholders are encouraged to attend the melas at their respective locations.

3. Farm Machinery Dealers are required to install their stalls at the designated locations on the scheduled dates to provide their products and services.

4. Dealers must ensure that their stalls are set up at least 30 minutes before the start of the mela for smooth operations.

5. Please ensure your participation on the specified date and time.

6. All the Registered Farm Machinery Dealers shall ensure to keep available the GST certificates, Farm Machinery Authorizations from the concerned quarters and other relevant documents for ready reference.

Availability of Authorizations for Farmers

The authorizations for farmers, based on the allotted targets and the recommended stratum of applications by the concerned HDOs, will be available at the concerned HDO Offices. Farmers are advised to collect their authorizations from the respective HDO offices. The list of authorized farmers will also be available for reference.

Dated: 05-12-2024

Sd/- (Shafiq Khalid)
Chief Horticulture Officer
Budgam

DIPK-9144/24

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION TANGDAR

Email: eerntangdar@gmail.com

1st Fresh E-TENDER NOTICE NO: 76 Endt No: 3554-64 OF 2024-25 DATED: 05.12.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt., CPWD, Railway and other U.T / Central Government works for the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	E/ Money (In Rs) @ 2% of the Adv. Cost	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	SCHEME/A
1	Construction of footpath with p wall NHO Javaid Ahmad to Jatla Mohalla Panchayat Kona Gabra.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
2	Construction of foot path with p wall NHO Mohd Akram, Muhad and others, Pyt Kandil Payeen.	1.46	200	2920	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
3	Construction of foot path with p wall NHO M Sayeed to Gh Haider at Sheikh Mohalla pyt. Kona Gabra.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
4	Construction of foot path from Chowker Mohalla to Masjid Shreef Panchayat, Kona Gbara.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
5	Construction of footpath from H/O Mohd Ismail to Taj Din Wamar at ward No 09 Panchayat Kandil Balla.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
6	Construction of tile path at different places Panchayat Baghballa.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
7	Construction of tile path from Bashir Ahmad Qureshi to Khurshid Ah and others at ward 1 panchayat Khowerpara B.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
8	Construction of tile path from H/O Ab Rashid and Others onwards, Panchayat Khowerpara B.	1.78	200	3560	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
9	Construction of tile path from HO Safi Din to Masjid Sharif, Panchayat Kona Gabra.	1.94	200	3880	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI
10	Construction of tile path from main road to Raja Shabir Ah, Raja Saleem and others Panchayat Nachiyen.	1.75	200	3500	15 days	DEE/DDC	ADF PRI

Position of AAA = Accorded. Position of TS = Accorded.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.12.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05.12.2024
3	Online Bid submission Start Date	05.12.2024
4	Online Bid Submission End Date	12.12.2024 upto 4 PM
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	13.12.2024 at (11 AM) or any other convenient day in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangdar

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan / Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar MH 0059- (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR, APS in case of unbalanced bid pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar (Tender receiving authority). The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the defect liability period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security).

Dated: 05-12-2024

DIPK-9049/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangdar

Law Minister Meghwal Slams Cong For Not Giving Ambedkar His Due; Ensuring His Poll Defeat

NEW DELHI: Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday slammed the opposition Congress for not giving B R Ambedkar his due and allegedly ensuring his defeat in the first Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing the media here, Meghwal credited Ambedkar with the creation of the Reserve Bank of India as well as the Finance Commission but lamented that the Congress "which talks of the Constitution, never gave Ambedkar the due he deserved.

He claimed the Congress made supporters of Ambedkar vote twice on ballot papers, making it invalid which led to his defeat.

He said Ambedkar wrote to the Election Commission about the way elections were held but the poll body did not act.

Meghwal said Ambedkar's representation to the poll panel was now available.

He said the Alipore Road residence of Ambedkar

here was turned into a memorial by then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. "But the Congress did nothing," he claimed.

The minister also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the establishment of an international centre dedicated to Ambedkar at a cost of Rs 200 crore.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Construction of Approach Road towards ZPE Office Bandipora

Ref:- e-NIT No.73 of 2024-25 Dated:- 28-11-2024.

Due to Poor Response, the bid submission end date of above subjected work advertised vide this office e-NIT No. referred above is hereby extended upto 07-12-2024 at 4:00 PM and the same will be opened on 09-12-2024 at 10:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (Tender Receiving Authority).

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

No.-EE/R&B/Bandi/5321-28

Dated:-05-12-2024.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Bandipora.

DIPK-9109/24

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY / JKRRDA DIVISION KUPWARA

NIT (CALL-5TH)

eNIT No: EE/PMGSY/KUP/eNIT/2024-25/19 Dated: 03-12-2024

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	E/Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
Stage-4	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	As per card limit
Stage-5	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	
Stage-6	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	
Stage-8	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	
Stage-9	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	
Stage-10	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	
Stage-13	200/-	1000/-	3054 Snow	

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Table 1:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04-12-2024 from 10:00 am
3	Bid submission Start Date	04-12-2024 from 10:00 am
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-12-2024 up to 4:00 pm
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10-12-2024 at 11:00 am

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs. 1000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Kupwara in strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs. 5,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

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

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

i. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

ii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.

iii. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Table 1.

v. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

vi. All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.

vii. A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.

viii. Treasury Challan/Earnest money

ix. Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

x. Valid Latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter or latest month, whichever is applicable.

7. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

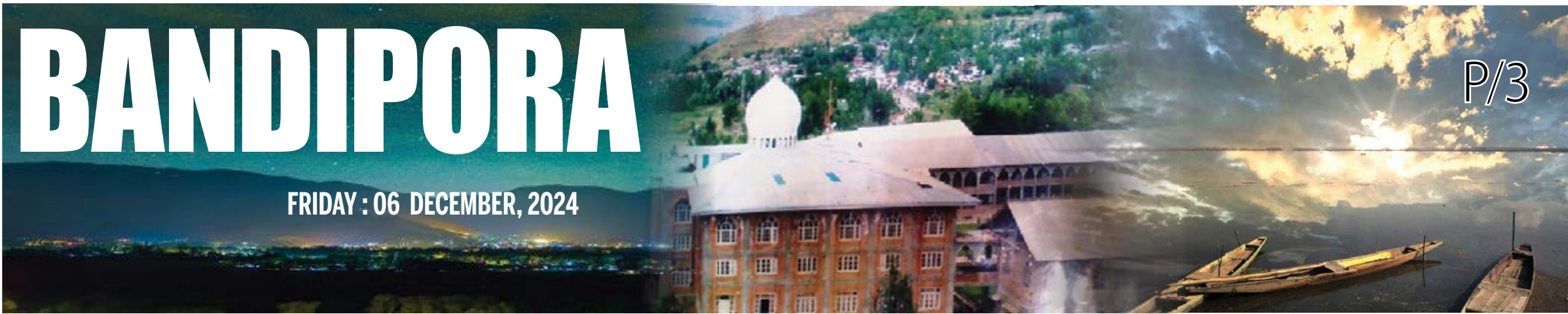
Details of Stages Snow Stages

No. 1467-73

Dated: 05-12-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division
Kupwara

DIPK-9049/24



BANDIPORA

FRIDAY : 06 DECEMBER, 2024

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Period pains: Kashmir women narrate grim stories on dealing with menstruation 'stigma'

'From Students to Homemakers, all sailing in the same boat'

SHEEBA HAJI

BANDIPORA: In Kashmir, women continue to struggle with menstruation, with many considering it "something dirty." The approach of the monthly cycle shakes them internally. From hiding it from family to feeling unable to openly ask for sanitary pads, the daily struggle highlights the stigma surrounding periods, which is deeply ingrained and takes a heavy toll on mental well-being.

Raziya (name changed), a student, shared her experience: "I got my period at the age of 17. I was very worried about it and couldn't tell anyone in my family. Eventually, I told my mother, and she said, 'Yes, this happens to girls. I had explained it to you before. Now that you are growing up, you need to take care of yourself. And yes, there is nothing to worry about.'"

However, as the years have passed, Raziya feels that menstruation is something that women are forced to hide and cannot discuss, even in the most difficult circumstances. "People still view it as shameful, and some even look down on those who are menstruating with disgust."

Menstruation is a natural process, but many girls in Kashmir still feel "hushed up" about it, struggling even to share it with their closest family members,



including mothers. Another challenge is that many families avoid discussing it altogether. As a result, many girls hesitate to buy sanitary pads, bound by unnecessary fears.

Although there have been efforts to normalize open conversations about menstruation and increase awareness elsewhere, women in Kashmir still feel shackled by social taboos.

Experts suggest that talking about menstruation can help eliminate these fears and empower young

women to take care of themselves confidently. "We need to educate ourselves first. Periods are not dirty; they are essential for the survival of the human species," they say, adding that many girls and women even suffer life-threatening conditions due to the stigma surrounding menstrual health.

Experts recommend scaling up awareness programs to educate girls on how to take care of themselves, what to eat, what medicines to take, and how to handle their periods, emphasizing that there is nothing to be ashamed of.

A 28-year-old mother of two children, living in poverty, shared her experience: "When I have my period, I still have to do every household task and take care of the children. I don't take rest during this time because I have to do everything myself. It's a big challenge for a girl to do all the work during this process."

She added, "If I talk about pads, I can't afford them. I use cloth," explaining that while she had heard of pads, she didn't know how to use them. When asked about the risks, she said, "No doubt, there is a risk of infection, but what can I do? Pads are so expensive," expressing her helplessness.

Najmaa, a young girl, offers a glimpse into the challenges she faces: "I honestly don't like using cloth, but I belong to a poor family, and I can't afford sanitary napkins every month." She added, "I cut up old clothes and keep them in a box to use during my periods. When I wash them, I have to hide them so no one in my family sees them."

A teacher shared with Kashmir Convener that many girls try to skip school when they anticipate their period. "Students even get their periods at school, which is frustrating for them because they are afraid to talk about it or seek assistance," the teacher explained.

Insiders note that the lack of proper washrooms and facilities, including access to sanitary pads, adds to the woes of menstruating girls, especially with girls as young as seven beginning to menstruate.

A shopkeeper mentioned that many girls are too shy to ask for pads: "Half of the girls ask directly, while others can't speak up. To avoid embarrassment, we give them the packs in bags so they aren't visible," he said. "We have now placed female sales staff in shops so that girls can comfortably ask for sanitary pads without feeling shy."

ADDC Reviews Progress of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Bandipora

BANDIPORA: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, who is also the chairman of the Joint Working Committee under the District Cooperative Development Committee, reviewed the progress of operationalizing Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the district.



An official spokesperson said the meeting was held with an aim to accelerate the establishment of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the district and was attended by key officials, including the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora, Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Medical Officers, and the Assistant Registrar Headquarters, Cooperative Societies Bandipora.

On the occasion, ADDC directed the Medical Department and Cooperative Societies to expedite the establishment of the remaining Jan Aushadhi Kendras, emphasizing the slogan "To serve the poor, to serve humanity."

He instructed the Assistant Registrar to identify suitable locations with high footfall within a fortnight to ensure swift operationalization of these Kendras.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, the ADDC urged the Cooperative Department to prioritize other government-led initiatives while focusing on modern technologies to create a robust cooperative ecosystem in the district.

During the meeting, the Assistant Registrar presented an overview of the department's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and efforts to diversify the role of cooperatives in running the Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

The ADDC reiterated the administration's commitment to making affordable and quality medicines accessible to the public, underlining the importance of the Kendras in enhancing healthcare services for underprivileged sections of society.

Yasha chairs review meeting regarding functioning of Tourism Department



JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the functioning of Tourism Department besides assessing ongoing developmental activities of Tourism Development Authorities and other key projects of the department at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Threadbare discussions were held on various issues and their present status including Master Plan of Developmental Authorities, bloggers meet, grievances redressal status, Security SOP for tourism destinations, revival of Sukrala Mata Board, website launch, Trade Rule finalisation, Adventure/Pilgrimage Fam Tour and status

of DPCs.

The meeting also discussed other issues including status of Committee report for verification of BRO works, Jammu Marathon/Adventure Race, recruitment rules for Gazetted, Non-Gazetted and Gold course, Tourist Police, Tourism Logo, Adventure brochure and formulation of Home Stay Policy besides other issues were also discussed.

While addressing the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary stressed upon the senior officers to speed up the process of all ongoing development activities so that the same could be completed within a time frame. Physical and financial status

of these works were also discussed.

Director, Tourism Kashmir, Director Planning (Tourism) and other senior officers briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the pace of progress in each aspect for early completion of all ongoing development activities for holistic promotion of the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The CEOs of all Tourism Development Authorities also briefed the chair about their respective ongoing development activities.

Managing Director JKTD, Director Finance Tourism department also briefed about their activities.

Army Public School Damana Hosts Pravesh and Dwitiya Sopan Camp for Scouts & Guides

DAMANA: Army Public School Damana organized a three-day Pravesh Camp and Dwitiya Sopan Camp for its Scouts and Guides.

An official spokesperson said camp aimed to nurture young minds and impart values such as teamwork, discipline, and leadership. The camp, which ran from December 3-5, 2024, provided students with a structured, holistic experience beyond academics.

Under the supervision of Principal Pushpinder Kaur and Vice Principal Shailu Kapoor, the camp saw active participation from resource persons including STC RP Kotwal, Joint STC (Guides) Smt. Manjeet Kour, Scouts Master Mr. Neeraj Sharma, and Scouts Master Mr. Madan Lal Sharma.

He said the event focused on enhancing students' skills through a variety of activities aligned with the APPO 2 and 3 syllabus, designed to encourage creativity, responsibility, and camaraderie.

The camp activities were coordinated by Scouts Master Mr. Sita Ram Sharma and Guides Captain Mrs. Malkeet Kaur, ensuring smooth execution throughout. The students actively participated in the hands-on activities, learning valuable life skills while strengthening their peer relationships.

The Closing Ceremony of the camp was graced by Wing Commander (Retd.) M.M. Joshi, National Secretary, J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides. His motivational speech left the students inspired and excited about the next steps in their scouting journey.

Spokesperson said the event marked a significant milestone for the Scouts and Guides at Army Public School Damana, reinforcing the core values of scouting while fostering an environment of fun, learning, and personal growth.

Ek Paid Maa Ke Naam: Plantation Drive held at Baramulla Polytechnic College

BARAMULLA: A plantation drive was on Thursday organized by Social Forestry in collaboration with Polytechnic College Kanis-

who also planted a variety of saplings across the college premises.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC empha-



pora, Baramulla within the college premises under the 'Ek Paid Maa Ke Naam,' initiative.

The initiative aimed to promote environmental awareness and community participation in creating a greener future.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, inaugurated the drive by planting a California sapling. The event witnessed active participation from the Additional District Development Commissioner, Syed Qamar Sajad, Other concerned officers and students,

sized the importance of tree plantation in mitigating climate change and fostering ecological balance. He commended the joint efforts of Social Forestry and the College Authority for organizing the drive and encouraged the younger generation to adopt sustainable practices.

Highlighting the theme, he urged participants to dedicate their plantation efforts to loved ones as a meaningful gesture.

After the plantation drive, the DC inspect-

ed several ongoing development projects in the Kanispora area, including the construction of a 100-bedded hostel at the Polytechnic College. The concerned engineer briefed the DC

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, inaugurated the drive by planting a California sapling. The event witnessed active participation from the Additional District Development Commissioner, Syed Qamar Sajad, Other concerned officers and students, who also planted a variety of saplings across the college premises.

about the project, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 715.71 lacs and is expected to be completed by June 2025.

The DC stressed the importance of adhering to deadlines and maintaining high-quality standards in the execution of the project.

Additionally, the DC directed the Block Development Officer (BDO) Baramulla to undertake land development works under MGN-REGA and ensure the desilting of the canal in Kanispora to enhance irrigation and water resource management in the region.

Constable (Telecom) Examination: DC Bandipora Imposes Prohibitory Orders Around Exam Centers

MARIUM FAYAZ

Bandipora: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Thursday imposed prohibitory orders around Exam Centres for the upcoming OMR-based recruitment examination for the post of Constable (Telecommunication).

In an order issued on Thursday evening, DC Bandipora has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 BNSS within a 100-meter radius of all examination centers designated for the upcoming OMR-based recruitment examination for the post of Constable (Telecommunication).

The examination, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), is scheduled for December 8, 2024, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

Official Spokesperson said the order aims to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the examination by curbing external interference, preventing potential breaches of peace, and maintaining public order around the examination centers.

As per the directives Only examinees, supervisory staff, security personnel deployed for examination duty, and officials connected with the examination process will be permitted within the 100-meter restricted zone.

Any unauthorized person or individuals not associated with the examination in any capacity will be strictly prohibited from entering the restricted radius during the examination hours.

The DC has issued instructions to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora to ensure adequate security arrangements at all examination centers. "The order also emphasizes the need for cooperation from the public to facilitate a fair and disruption-free examination process".

Advisor Nasir Sogami pays tribute to Sheikh Abdullah

Srinagar : Nasir Sogami, Advisor to the Chief Minister, paid tribute to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, fondly remembered as "Sher-i-Kashmir," for his transformative role in liberating the people of Jammu and Kashmir from oppressive rule and laying the groundwork for progress and development.

Speaking at a commemorative event, Sogami emphasized the importance of honoring the region's historic leaders. "It is our collective responsibility to remember those who shaped our history and gave us the strength to speak and achieve milestones. Sher-i-Kashmir's efforts stand out as he played a pivotal role in granting us freedom and dignity," he remarked.

Reflecting on the hardships endured during the era of autocracy, Sogami described it as a period of widespread tyranny. He credited Sheikh Abdullah's visionary leadership for breaking the chains of oppression and paving the way for a brighter future. "His contributions will remain an integral part of our history," Sogami added.

The Advisor also prayed for Sheikh Abdullah, saying, "May Allah grant him a place in Jannah and elevate his status further."

Addressing attendees, Sogami acknowledged the reinstatement of a previously canceled ceremony and assured that more elaborate celebrations would be organized in the future. "By the next significant milestone, we aim to ensure full-fledged observance of these important traditions," he promised.

REC wins Prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2024 for Excellence in Corporate Governance

Gurugram: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with Golden Peacock Award 2024 for Excellence in Corporate Governance.

An official spokesperson said the award was presented by the Golden Peacock Awards Secretariat and Institute of Directors in a ceremony held in London.

The Golden Peacock Award is a testament to REC's unwavering commitment to the highest standards of corporate governance. This recognition underscores REC's dedication to transparency, accountability, and ethical business practices, which have been integral to its sustained success and reputation in the industry.

REC has won the award in Power (Financial Services) category.

Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairman and Managing Director, REC expressed his gratitude for the award, stating, "We are deeply honoured to receive the Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance. This accolade reflects our continuous efforts to uphold the principles of good governance and our commitment to creating long-term value for our stakeholders."

REC was declared winner by awards jury, led by 25th Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah and other jury members included Justice U. U. Lalit, former Chief Justice of India; Prof. (Judge) Mervyn E. King SC, and others.

The award ceremony, attended by distinguished leaders from various industries, highlighted the importance of corporate governance in fostering sustainable business practices. REC's recognition among the elite group of awardees reaffirms its position as a leader in the power sector and a role model for corporate governance.



Rangeen Machhli App

The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), with financial backing from the Department of Fisheries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), has launched the "Rangeen Machhli" app. This initiative aims to assist hobbyists, farmers, and professionals in the ornamental fish industry by providing them with reliable, multilingual, and comprehensive information on fish care, breeding, and maintenance. The app is designed to promote the ornamental fish trade and encourage informed fish-keeping practices. It is available in eight Indian languages, making it accessible to a broad audience.

The primary objectives of the "Rangeen Machhli" app include providing information on popular ornamental fish species and their care, promoting local aquarium businesses through a dynamic directory, enhancing the knowledge of ornamental aquaculture techniques, and serving as an educational tool for both newcomers and experienced professionals in the industry.

Key features of the app include multilingual support in eight Indian languages, detailed information on the care, breeding, and maintenance of ornamental fish, a "Find Aquarium Shops" tool that allows users to locate nearby aquarium shops, and educational modules such as "Basics of Aquarium Care" and "Ornamental Aquaculture." The app aims to empower fish farmers and shop owners by enhancing their knowledge and helping them diversify their stock and improve their businesses.

The "Find Aquarium Shops" feature is particularly valuable for promoting local businesses. By allowing aquarium shop owners to update their shop details, it helps create visibility and offers users easy access to reliable sources for ornamental fish and aquarium products. This tool not only supports the economic growth of the ornamental fish industry but also ensures the availability of authentic products, improving sustainability and growth in the sector.

History as a Spiritual Compass



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." — George Santayana

"We learn from history that we do not learn from history."-Hegel

"The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."- Winston Churchill

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again."-Maya Angelou

"The past's bright flame guides the present sight / Illuminating wrong and right."

History's wisdom, as a cultural, intellectual, and spiritual resource, remains a profound guide across different times, civilizations, and contexts. Its teachings, interwoven in the collective consciousness of societies, hold enduring truths and valuable lessons that transcend the boundaries of particular periods or geographic spaces. The wisdom embedded in historical narratives, philosophies, and traditions reveals deep insights into human nature, social organization, conflict resolution, and the pursuit of meaning, offering a timeless resource for navigating modern challenges.

Across cultures, history has always been a means of understanding not only the present but also the potential futures that await societies. The ancient civilizations of Greek, Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and the Indus Valley, for example, left behind records and monuments that encapsulate core contributions in the form of governance, legal and trade systems, writing, morality, inventions, personal and social orders, conducts, philosophy, medicine, art, engineering, infrastructure, spirituality, self-realisation, cosmic order, religious and cultural practices, interpersonal and environmental stewardship etc. The codes of Hammurabi, for instance, provided a rudimentary but significant framework for law and justice, presenting the ancient belief that moral order must be preserved through clear and structured regulations. Similarly, the Egyptians' emphasis on the afterlife and the preservation of knowledge—embodied in the creation of monumental tombs and the practice of mummification—reflects a profound recognition of the continuity of life and the transcendence of human wisdom. The hieroglyphic texts on temples and pyramids carried not only political or religious messages but also concepts about morality, human dignity, and the cycles of nature.

The Greeks, on the other hand, brought forward a distinctive form of historical wisdom with an intellectual rigor that permeated philosophy, science, and the arts. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle laid down foundational concepts

regarding ethics, governance, and human purpose. The notion of questioning, the Socratic method, invited people across ages to critically examine their assumptions and beliefs. Plato's "Republic," which explored the nature of justice, governance, and ideal societies, continues to influence political thought today. The concept of "eudaimonia" (human flourishing), central to Aristotle's ethics, suggests that true wisdom involves the pursuit of virtue and personal

human purpose, and divine justice. The Bible, the Torah, and the Quran contain vast wisdom regarding compassion, justice, and social responsibility. For example, the Sermon on the Mount in Christianity emphasizes humility, love, and forgiveness, while the Quran urges Muslims to live in justice, charity, and kindness towards others. These texts are not only religious doctrines but also ethical blueprints that have shaped social values and legal systems

such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Galileo laid the groundwork for modern science, art, and humanism. The era encouraged an unprecedented fusion of knowledge and creativity, where historical insights into the human condition were blended with the emerging spirit of inquiry and individualism. This period saw a profound reimagining of human potential, as people sought not only to understand the world but to shape it according to ideals of beauty,



growth, a thought that still resonates in modern psychological and philosophical debates.

Further east, the wisdom of Confucianism and Taoism emerged as vital teachings that emphasized harmony, respect, and balance in human relationships. Confucian ethics, deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of China, Japan, and Korea, stressed the importance of filial piety, respect for hierarchy, and the role of education in cultivating virtue. Confucius believed that personal moral development and social harmony were integral to a just society. Taoism, with its focus on the natural flow of life (the Tao), encouraged individuals to live in accordance with nature and simplicity, a perspective that echoes in contemporary environmentalist and holistic movements.

In India, the Vedas and the teachings of figures like Buddha, Mahavira, and the authors of the Bhagavad Gita offered wisdom on spiritual liberation, ethics, and self-realization. The cyclic concept of time in Hindu cosmology, the path of non-violence (ahimsa) advocated by Jainism, and the Middle Path of Buddhism introduced profound insights into suffering, detachment, and enlightenment. The Bhagavad Gita, for instance, offers an integrated worldview, where spiritual growth, ethical duties (dharma), and a sense of personal purpose are connected, suggesting that wisdom comes from both inward reflection and active engagement with the world.

In medieval Europe, the Abrahamic traditions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—provided frameworks for understanding morality,

in various parts of the world. In addition, the work of medieval scholars like Thomas Aquinas and Avicenna bridged religious wisdom with philosophical inquiry, seeking to reconcile reason with faith.

In Africa, the wisdom of oral traditions has played a central role in maintaining and transmitting knowledge across generations. Elders, through storytelling, proverbs, and songs, imparted ethical values, historical lessons, and cultural practices. The African concept of Ubuntu, which emphasizes interconnectedness and collective well-being, reflects a deep wisdom that prioritizes the community over individualism. This sense of shared humanity can be seen as a call for social responsibility and empathy, reminding modern societies of the importance of cooperation and mutual respect.

Throughout history, wisdom has also been deeply intertwined with the arts and literature. The ancient epic tales—such as the "Epic of Gilgamesh," Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey," or the "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana"—combine elements of mythology, history, and morality to reflect on themes of heroism, destiny, and the divine. These narratives offer reflections on human ambition, frailty, and the ethical complexities of leadership, war, and human relationships. The lessons from such epics extend beyond their immediate cultural contexts, revealing universal themes that resonate with human experiences across time.

The Renaissance period in Europe brought a resurgence of classical learning, and figures

reason, and progress.

In modern times, the wisdom of history continues to influence contemporary debates on democracy, human rights, and global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. The history of social movements—such as those led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela—offers potent lessons on the power of nonviolent resistance, justice, and the pursuit of equality. Similarly, the narratives of environmental movements and indigenous wisdom remind us of the need for sustainable practices and the preservation of the earth's resources.

History's wisdom is thus a multifaceted treasure trove that transcends cultures, periods, and contexts. Its lessons are not static but evolve with each generation's understanding and re-interpretation. Whether it is the philosophical meditations of ancient thinkers or the ethical imperatives of modern social movements, history offers enduring guidance for humanity's quest for knowledge, justice, and meaning. It invites reflection on the past while urging active engagement in the present, fostering a deeper sense of interconnectedness and responsibility towards the world and each other. As the world continues to evolve, the wisdom of history remains an invaluable compass for navigating the complexities of human existence.

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India's Long-Range Cruise Missile Takes Flight

PM Narendra Modi

On November 12, 2024, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting the first flight test of India's Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM). Launched from a mobile articulated launcher at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, this test marked a monumental step in India's indigenous defense development program. The missile's performance met all primary objectives, underscoring its potential as a game-changer in modern warfare.

Development and Collaborative Efforts
The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile is the result of years of rigorous research and development led by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) in Bengaluru. It is a culmination of collaborative efforts by various DRDO laboratories and Indian industries, making it a testament to India's self-reliance in defense technology. Key industrial partners such as Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Hyderabad, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru, played a pivotal role as development-cum-production partners, ensuring the missile's seamless integration and deployment.

The project was approved under the Defence Acquisition Council's (DAC) Mission Mode framework, which emphasizes critical projects with strategic importance. With a planned range of over 1,000 km, the LRLACM is designed to meet the evolving needs of India's armed forces, offering unparalleled precision in long-range strikes.

Design and Capabilities
The LRLACM's design incorporates cutting-edge technology, state-of-the-art avionics, and advanced software. Its versatility is evident in its ability to be launched from both mobile ground platforms and

frontline naval ships using the Universal Vertical Launch Module (UULM). This capability enhances its operational flexibility, allowing it to adapt to

radio-frequency seeker, which will be integrated in future trials, will enhance its terminal homing capabilities, making it a formidable weapon for

for a few sensors and accelerometers, being locally sourced. This self-reliance reduces dependency on foreign technology and underscores the strength



diverse combat scenarios.

One of the standout features of the missile is its ability to perform complex maneuvers while flying at varying speeds and altitudes. This, coupled with its subsonic speed and terrain-following capabilities, makes it exceptionally difficult to detect and intercept, providing a strategic advantage in penetrating enemy defenses. During the first test flight, the missile demonstrated precise waypoint navigation, complex maneuvers, and accurate trajectory tracking, proving its reliability and accuracy.

To ensure stealth and efficiency, the missile employs terrain-adjacent flight paths, enabling it to evade enemy radar systems. Its advanced

precision strikes.

Strategic Importance
Long-range land-attack cruise missiles are a crucial component of modern military arsenals, enabling stand-off strikes on strategic targets from safe distances. This capability ensures the safety of launch platforms and operating personnel while delivering devastating effects on high-value targets.

The LRLACM's design draws inspiration from globally renowned cruise missiles like the U.S. Tomahawk and Russia's Kalibr, both known for their precision in long-range strikes. However, India's LRLACM stands out due to its indigenous development, with almost all components, except

of India's defense manufacturing sector.

Testing and Future Plans
During the inaugural test flight, the LRLACM was closely monitored using an array of advanced sensors, including radars, electro-optical tracking systems, and telemetry equipment along its flight path. The missile's seamless execution of mission objectives was a testament to the robustness of its design and development.

Future plans include around 20 additional test flights to further refine the missile's performance and reliability. These tests will focus on enhancing its range, accuracy, and terminal homing capabilities. Once the trials are completed, the Indian Navy

is expected to procure approximately 200 units of the missile, valued at around 5,000 crore. This procurement will significantly boost the Navy's strike capabilities, particularly in scenarios requiring sea-skimming attacks.

Contributions to National Defense
The successful development and testing of the LRLACM mark a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities. It highlights the nation's progress in achieving self-reliance in critical technologies and its ability to compete with global defense leaders. By investing in indigenous missile systems like the LRLACM, India not only strengthens its military arsenal but also reduces its dependency on foreign imports, fostering economic growth and technological innovation.

This achievement also sends a strong message about India's commitment to modernizing its armed forces and safeguarding its strategic interests. As the LRLACM moves closer to operational deployment, it will become a cornerstone of India's defense strategy, offering unmatched precision, flexibility, and reliability in combat scenarios.

Conclusion: The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile is more than just a weapon; it is a symbol of India's technological prowess and determination to secure its borders. With its advanced capabilities and indigenous roots, the LRLACM is poised to become a game-changer in modern warfare, enhancing India's ability to deter and defeat potential threats.

As India continues to invest in cutting-edge defense technologies, the successful flight test of the LRLACM stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to excellence.

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Mubarak Mandi to be a prominent tourist spot in Jammu: CS

JAMMU, DECEMBER 5: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today made a visit to Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex here to take on spot assessment of the progress made on the works of conservation and protection going on for the last few years.

On the occasion he was accompanied by Principal Secretary, Culture; Secretary, R&B; Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary went around different heritage buildings of the complex and took cognizance of the conservation works being carried out there. He enquired about the subsequent plans of the society about adaptive reuse of the structures after their restoration.

Dulloo also emphasised upon the Society to further pace up the work there for completing the same within a minimum timeframe. He maintained that the restoration of heritage is quite a technical work that demands due diligence and highly professional manpower to accomplish the tasks.

He directed for restoring the original magnificence of the complex besides preserving its aesthetic appeal befitting its past glory. He went inside the renovated Darbar Hall currently hosting Dogra Art Museum where he went around different sections observing Numismatics Gallery, Jewellery Section, Archaeology Section and Master Sansarch and Gallery viewing the historical repository of artefacts on display there.

He also took note of the progress made in restoration works being carried out in the structures like Raja Ram Singh's and Raja Amar Singh Palaces besides the Museum building which is soon going to be completed to host an array of historically valuable antiquities proposed in different parts

The Chief Secretary further made out that together with the part developed under PPP mode the protection works executed currently would be accomplished in next 2 years to make this complex an attractive place to visit.

During this visit the Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta informed about the plans for adaptive reuse of the conserved structures besides other aspects of this mega project.

He gave out that the grand structures behind the complex including Rani Charak Mahal, Pink Hall etc are going to be developed in a PPP mode. He revealed that the Department has invited bids for hiring a transaction advisor for this purpose and soon the work on this project would be taken up here.

The Executive Director, MMJHS, Deepika Sharma gave the overall introduction about the aims and objectives of conservation of this complex. She detailed out the works carried out so far and explained the future reuse plans for different structures to be used as display galleries, museums, library and cultural centres.

It was given out that the first vision document for the conservation of this complex was prepared by INTACH in the year 2008 and a comprehensive master plan was later prepared and approved in 2019.

Primarily, the complex is zoned out in 06 zones including Public Zone, Knowledge Centre, Interpretation & Collection Galleries, Lifestyle, Experiential Spaces and Crafts Bazaar.

It was also revealed that under this Master Plan an amount of Rs 144.15 Cr is to be spent on different sub-projects of this heritage complex.

It was made out that work on few sub-projects has been completed and the work on other sub-projects is apace for their completion on time.



The Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, is seen visiting the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex in Jammu. He is accompanied by the Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, and the Executive Director, MMJHS, Deepika Sharma. They are observing the restoration work on the historical structures of the complex.

World Soil Day: Horticulture Deptt organizes Workshop

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: On the occasion of World Soil Day, the Horticulture Department today organized a workshop themed Caring for soils: Measure, Monitor & Manage at Conference Hall of Horticulture Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar.

The workshop was organized under the chairmanship of Director Horticulture Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat. In his keynote address, Director elaborated on the soil being the fundamental ingredient of the composition of our planet, and highlighted the importance of healthy soil for survival of flora and fauna on the earth planet.

Addressing the gathering, he said in the event of soil degradation it has become inevitable to adopt Sustainable soil management practices, such as minimum tillage, crop rotation, organic matter addition, and cover cropping, improve soil health, reduce erosion and pollution, and enhance water infiltration and storage.

The Director said these practices preserve soil biodiversity, improve fertility, and contribute to carbon sequestration, playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change.

He said, nature has bestowed us with fertile and balanced soil so it is our duty to safeguard it to save the future of our coming generations.

The Director said that the Horticulture department has a facility of Soil analysis for the farming community to enhance produce as well as fruit crop quality.

In the technical session, Soil and Leaf Analyst through his power point presentation discussed in detail the pros and cons of soil analysis, its importance, procedure of soil sampling and modern techniques.

DLSA Ganderbal convenes M&MC meeting

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 05: Pursuant to directions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Regulations, a meeting of the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (M&MC) was held today at District Court Ganderbal.

The meeting aimed to review the progress of Legal Aid Cases assigned to the Panel Lawyers by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal.

The meeting was chaired by Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge), Ganderbal and was joined by Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA and Advocate Sajad Hyder Salathi as members of Monitoring and Mentoring Committee.

During the meeting, various cases were thoroughly examined and discussed. The Committee provided valuable recommendations and guidance to Panel Lawyers regarding best practices on efficient case management, urging Panel Lawyers to prioritize cases and maintain regular communication with clients, ensuring that the clients understand their rights, entitlements and the legal process. All the Panel Lawyers were also sensitized by the Committee to serve selflessly for the poor, needy and marginalized sections of the society, to ensure punctuality in attending the Legal Aid Cases pending in different Courts of District Ganderbal in discharge of their duties professionally.

Chief Justice lays foundation stone for new court complex, Anantnag

ANANTNAG DECEMBER 05: Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, accompanied by Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and Administrative Judge for District Anantnag, today visited Anantnag and laid foundation stone for the proposed new court building.

This milestone signifies a progressive step towards enhancing judicial infrastructure to ensure more efficient access to justice.

The event witnessed participation of notable dignitaries including Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Tahir Khurshid Raina, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Masarat Roohi, Additional District & Sessions

Judge Anantnag, Syed Fakhrud Din Hamid, DC Anantnag, G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Anantnag, Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Designated Judge for NIA/Special Court Anantnag, Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chief Judicial Magistrate Anantnag, Muzamil Ahmad Wani, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag, Showkat Ali Lone, President, District Bar Association Anantnag and other judicial officers, senior members of Bar and officers from the district administration.

The foundation stone ceremony was followed by a program, which featured addresses by several dignitaries.

In his presidential address, the Chief Justice underscored the judiciary's pivotal role in upholding the rule of law and

safeguarding the rights of the common man. He spoke about the significance of a robust judicial system, supported by modern infrastructure, in delivering timely and effective justice.

The Chief Justice appreciated the collaborative spirit displayed by the local judiciary, administration and bar in making this project a reality. He reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment towards serving the people and expressed optimism that the new

the collaborative spirit displayed by the local judiciary, administration and bar in making this project a reality. He reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment towards serving the people and expressed optimism that the new

court complex would pave the way for an improved justice delivery system in the district.

In his welcome address, Tahir Khurshid Raina, Principal District & Sessions Judge Anantnag, extended warm regards to all present and emphasised the transformative potential of the new court complex.

He expressed hope that the upcoming facility would serve as a beacon of justice and alleviate infrastructural constraints currently faced by the judiciary in Anantnag.

Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul lauded the efforts made in enhancing legal infrastructure in Anantnag. He stressed the importance of such projects in ensuring justice, thereby instilling confidence among the people.



Javed Rana reviews progress on implementation of WSSs in Pir Panjal region

JAMMU DECEMBER 05: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review various activities of Jal Shakti Department besides assessing progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Chief Engineer PHE, Jammu, Superintending Engineer, Jammu attended the meeting in person while officers from Poonch and Rajouri participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Javed Rana took a detailed review of different water supply schemes (WSSs) focusing on completion of different schemes, physical targets, fund utilisation as well as implementation of JJM in the region.

While chairing the meeting, Javed Ahmed Rana fixed timelines for completion of all Water Supply Schemes in Pir Panjal Region saying that the work needs to be done on war footing basis. He issued strict instructions to the officers to regularly monitor the progress on schemes to ensure their timely completion.

He took serious note of the held

up projects and asked the Chief Engineer to put in strenuous efforts to bring an improvement in the system for the welfare of the people.

He also reviewed the arrangements being made by the Jal Shakti department for maintaining continuous supply of water in the far flung areas. He called upon the officials to increase their visibility on ground and take proactive initiatives like having a prompt complaint redressal system to address the problems of the general public. He emphasised upon them to focus on delivery, outcome and effective grievances redressal mechanism so that people do not face any kind of inconvenience.

He cautioned the officials against any laxity in implementation of JJM as it is a very prestigious project and

the government is committed to provide assured basic services to the people living in rural areas and JJM is a step forward towards that. He said that it needs to be ensured that all works are done as per the requirements and laid down parameters.

He also took note of the malfunctioning of machinery in Mendhar area and directed the officers to look into the issue on priority basis. He further impressed upon the officials to complete all pending works on priority basis while calling for judicious utilisation of men and machinery.

During the meeting, Javed Rana was given a detailed note on the status of different water supply schemes subdivision wise and the expected completion date.



DLIC approves 37 cases under Mission Youth schemes in Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 05: A District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, was held today to review and approve cases under the Mission Youth J&K schemes, including Mumkin, Tejaswini, and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative at DC Office Ganderbal.

The Nodal Officer for Mission Youth self-employment schemes, Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, presented 37 new cases for the committee's consideration.

These include 18 cases under the Mumkin scheme, 13 cases under the Tejaswini scheme and 6 cases under the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative. After thorough scrutiny, the committee approved all 37 cases.

During the meeting, the DC directed the Lead District Manager to expedite the clearance of cases pending with various bank branches for pre-checks, sanctioning, and disbursement.

He also emphasized the need for timely reporting of progress to the Nodal Officer for Mission Youth. Addressing the issue of rejected cases, the DC instructed that rejection reasons must be reviewed thoroughly. If rejections are due to departmental or banking issues, they must be clearly identified and resolved promptly.

The issue of Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation, a frequent cause of rejections under the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative, was also discussed.

DRSC meeting calls to focus on enhancing Road Safety in Baramulla

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 05: A meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, to review the implementation of road safety measures and assess compliance with directives issued by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS).

During the meeting, ARTO Baramulla and DSP Traffic provided a detailed briefing to the DC about the action taken so far. They presented enforcement data for the period from January to November 2024.

As per the data, a total of 89,395 challans were issued, generating fines amounting to Rs.1,93,48,800. Furthermore, 1,361 vehicles were seized during this period. Specific to school buses, 198 challans were issued, with 12 buses seized and fines totaling Rs.80,500.

In addition to enforcement, the officers highlighted the efforts

made to raise awareness about road safety. It was given out that 62 awareness programs were conducted, and three eye-testing camps were also conducted to ensure driver health and safety.

The meeting also addressed critical safety concerns, including the identification of black spots at Delina, Palhallan, Pattan, and Khawjabagh. The DC directed the installation of mirrors, crash barriers, and proper road signage at these locations to enhance safety.

Blind spots across the district were also identified for immediate

corrective action.

To further strengthen road safety, the DC emphasized the need for test-driving facilities and regular health checkups for drivers.

The Chief Education Officer was instructed to organize road safety awareness camps in schools and utilize screens to educate the students.

The DC stressed the importance of anti-encroachment drives along the National Highway and other critical routes. He directed all EOs and Tehsildars to ensure road clearance to prevent accidents.

Minga Sherpa also announced that a 4x4 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance under Dial 108 would soon be stationed in Uri to improve emergency medical response in remote areas.

In response to a proposal from SSP Baramulla, the DC directed Block Medical Officers (BMOs) to organize emergency training sessions for police personnel at all police stations.

These sessions aim to enhance the preparedness of law enforcement for handling road accidents and emergencies.



Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of Chauki Chaura Hospital

JAMMU, DECEMBER 5: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today conducted a surprise inspection of Government Hospital at Chauki Chaura in Akhnour Tehsil.

He took stock of the facilities being provided to the patients, besides enquiring about the strength of doctors and para-medical staff deployed there.

While interacting with the staff, the Deputy Chief Minister said the present government has already passed the instructions that people should not face any inconvenience with respect to the public services especially the healthcare facilities.

He said the government

is committed to ensure speedy and hassle free deliverance of public added.

Choudhary also directed the hospital authorities to ensure that the patients are provided with quality healthcare facilities. He said that it should be ensured that benefits of health related policies are provided to them without any fail.



TheSocietal Lens

Faith and Action: Addressing Divisive Narratives and Societal Issues in J&K

Syed Hidayat Bukhari

Islam, a faith rooted in unity, compassion, and justice, provides a comprehensive framework for building harmonious societies and addressing societal challenges. However, in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the rise of pseudo-scholars has emerged as a major obstacle to these ideals. These self-proclaimed authorities exploit social media platforms to propagate divisive ideologies, creating discord among communities and diverting attention from pressing issues such as unemployment,

between academia and industry. Additionally, vocational training and short-term certification programs in areas like digital marketing, graphic design, and web development can offer quick and effective pathways to employment. By focusing on modern skills and innovation, J&K's education system can empower its youth to compete on a global stage and reduce the frustrations that often lead to social unrest.

Combating Drug Abuse: A Collective Responsibility

Drug abuse is another pressing issue that has reached alarming

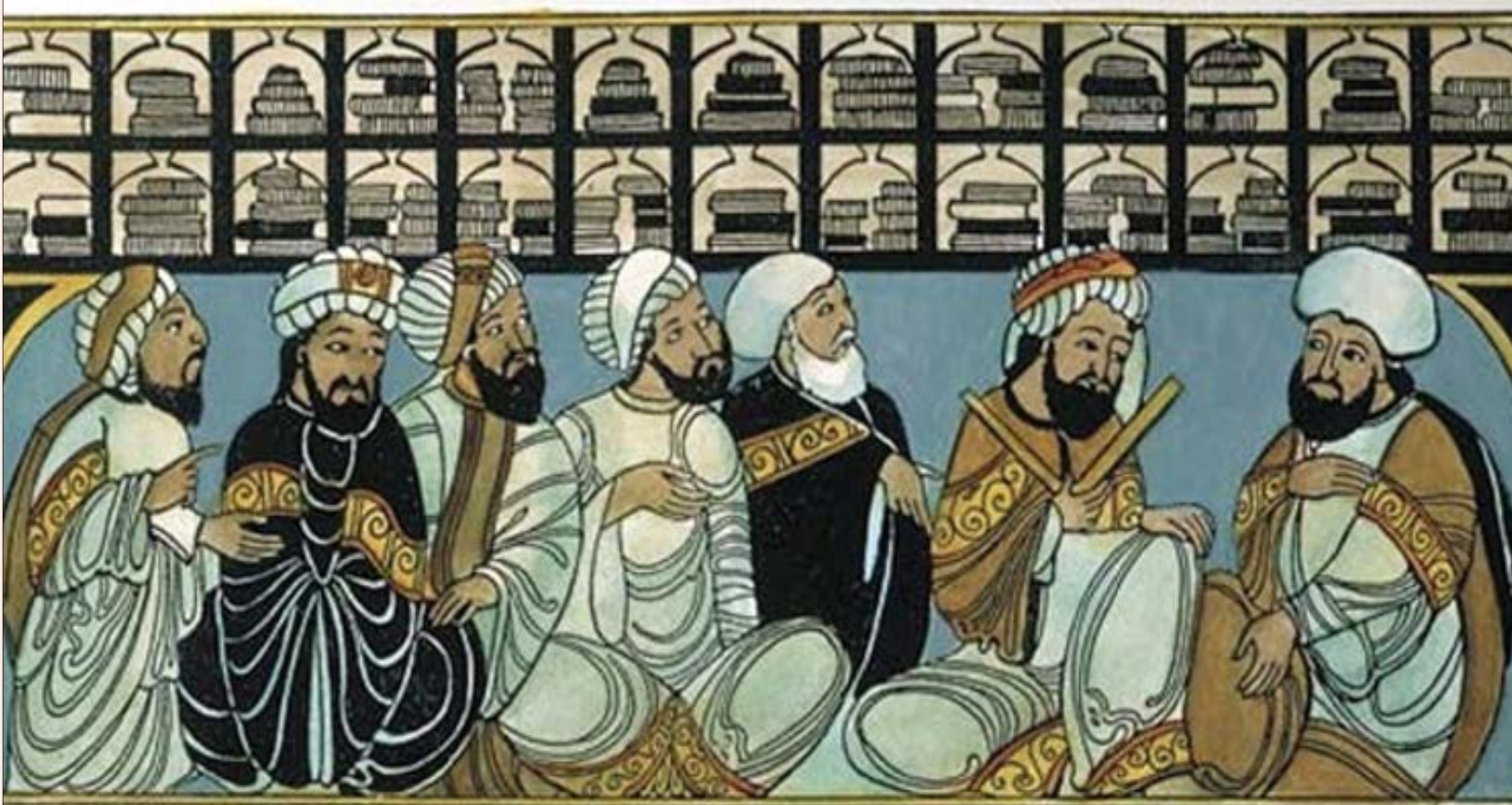
sustainability. Community-led afforestation projects can help restore degraded ecosystems, while investments in renewable energy, such as solar and hydropower, can reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Promoting eco-friendly practices, such as waste segregation and recycling, can also mitigate pollution and protect natural resources. The Quran reminds us: "Do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption" (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:60).

Scholars and community leaders can inspire individuals to view environmental stewardship as both a religious obligation and a social

Capacity Building for Law Enforcement: The police and other agencies must be equipped with the necessary tools and training to monitor and counter digital propaganda effectively.

Public Awareness Campaigns: The administration can initiate campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of pseudo-scholars and the importance of seeking authentic sources of religious knowledge.

Through a combination of legal enforcement and community-based interventions, the administration can effectively curb the influence of pseudo-scholars and reinforce societal harmony



drug abuse, mental health crises, and environmental degradation.

Pseudo-scholars have built substantial followings on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and even LinkedIn, where their sensationalist rhetoric often attracts audiences of over 100,000. While some engage with their content out of curiosity or entertainment, their divisive narratives sow deep animosity among youth, tarnishing the image of Islam as a religion of peace and unity. By distorting Quranic teachings and Hadith, they erode the bonds of brotherhood and intensify sectarian conflicts. The Quran explicitly warns against division:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided" (Surah Al-Imran, 3:103).

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also emphasized the importance of unity, urging Muslims to reject hatred and envy

"Do not hate one another, do not envy one another, do not turn away from one another, but rather be servants of Allah as brothers." (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim).

The need of the hour is for genuine scholars and community leaders to reclaim the narrative, guiding society away from divisive rhetoric and toward meaningful progress. This requires a collective effort to address the root causes of societal challenges while aligning the aspirations of youth with opportunities that empower them to thrive in a rapidly changing world. In this critical juncture, the role of established religious institutions such as the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama Jammu and Kashmir becomes paramount in countering such divisive forces and restoring societal harmony

The Education Reform: Preparing for the Future

The education system in J&K is one such area that requires urgent reform. Traditional courses offered in colleges and universities often fail to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in the private and corporate sectors. This mismatch between education and market demands has contributed to J&K's unemployment crisis, with the region recording an unemployment rate of 11.8% as of November 2024, the highest in India. Among urban youth aged 15 to 29, the unemployment rate is a staggering 32%, with women in the same age group facing an even higher rate of 53.6%.

Addressing this issue requires a fundamental shift in the approach to education. Universities and colleges should introduce courses in high-demand fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, and programming to prepare students for the jobs of the future. Partnerships with private sector companies can provide internships, mentorship programs, and job-oriented training that bridge the gap

proportions in J&K, evolving into a public health emergency. Approximately 1.35 million people in the region are drug users, with heroin accounting for nearly 90% of cases treated at de-addiction centers. The financial burden on families is devastating, with an average user spending 88,183 per month. Beyond the economic toll, the social and health consequences are severe, as the sharing of needles has led to a rise in HIV and hepatitis cases.

The problem is deeply intertwined with unemployment and social instability, as frustrated and disillusioned youth often turn to substance abuse as an escape. Tackling this crisis requires a multi-pronged approach. Public awareness campaigns in schools and colleges can educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of seeking help. Expanding access to professional counseling and rehabilitation centers will provide the necessary support for recovery, while community leaders and religious scholars can play a critical role in destigmatizing addiction and encouraging treatment. Strengthening law enforcement to dismantle drug trafficking networks is also essential to cut off the supply of narcotics and prevent further harm.

Mental Health: Addressing an Overlooked Crisis

The mental health crisis in J&K is another challenge that demands immediate attention. Decades of conflict have left deep psychological scars, with over 45% of adults experiencing symptoms of anxiety, depression, or PTSD. Tragically, J&K accounted for nearly 30% of India's suicide cases in 2022, underscoring the severity of the issue. Despite the scale of the crisis, stigma and a lack of resources often prevent individuals from seeking help.

To address this, public awareness campaigns led by religious and community leaders can play a vital role in normalizing conversations about mental health and reducing stigma. Establishing accessible mental health clinics in both urban and rural areas, staffed with trained professionals, can ensure that care reaches those who need it most. Additionally, schools and colleges should integrate mental health education into their curricula, equipping students with coping mechanisms and emotional resilience to navigate life's challenges.

Environmental Sustainability: Preserving J&K's Natural Heritage
Environmental sustainability is another critical issue that J&K must confront. The region's breathtaking natural beauty, often referred to as "paradise on earth," is under significant threat from deforestation, pollution, and climate change. These environmental challenges jeopardize agriculture, water resources, and biodiversity, all of which are vital to the region's economy and well-being.

Addressing these challenges requires a shared commitment to

responsibility. By linking faith with actionable initiatives, they can mobilize communities to preserve J&K's natural heritage for future generations.

The Role of Muttahidah Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU)

The Muttahidah Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU), led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, brings together scholars and leaders from various religious sects to address critical societal issues. This unified platform is uniquely positioned to counter the menace of pseudo-scholars who distort Islamic teachings to sow discord. The MMU must actively denounce such individuals and work with law enforcement to hold them accountable under laws like the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The MMU can ensure that divisive rhetoric is not tolerated by urging each sect to monitor its representatives and report any violations to the authorities. By promoting unity and advocating for swift legal action against those inciting hatred, the MMU can help maintain societal harmony without disrupting normalcy.

The Role of Administration: Curbing Pseudo-Scholars Through Legal Measures

The role of the administration in combating pseudo-scholars is paramount. In J&K, laws such as the Public Safety Act (PSA) and provisions within the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, empower authorities to take action against individuals who incite hatred, disrupt public order, or engage in activities detrimental to communal harmony. These legal frameworks are critical tools in addressing the threat posed by pseudo-scholars, whose influence extends from online platforms to real-world consequences.

The Public Safety Act (PSA) enables preventive detention of individuals who pose a risk to public safety or order. By targeting pseudo-scholars who use their platforms to spread misinformation and sectarian propaganda, the administration can neutralize potential threats before they escalate. Similarly, the Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Police play a vital role in monitoring online activities, identifying hate speech, and taking action against individuals who violate laws related to cybercrime and public order.

Steps the Administration Must Take:

Enhanced Monitoring of Digital Platforms: The administration must collaborate with tech companies to identify and remove hate speech and divisive content spread by pseudo-scholars. Algorithms that amplify sensationalist content need to be scrutinized and regulated.

Community Engagement: Local authorities should work closely with religious leaders, community heads, and educational institutions to promote narratives of unity and counter divisive ideologies.

The education system in J&K is one such area that requires urgent reform. Traditional courses offered in colleges and universities often fail to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in the private and corporate sectors. This mismatch between education and market demands has contributed to J&K's unemployment crisis, with the region recording an unemployment rate of 11.8% as of November 2024, the highest in India. Among urban youth aged 15 to 29, the unemployment rate is a staggering 32%, with women in the same age group facing an even higher rate of 53.6%.

Conclusion

Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crossroads. The challenges it faces—from pseudo-scholars to systemic issues like unemployment, drug abuse, mental health, and environmental degradation—are significant but not insurmountable. By rejecting divisive narratives and focusing on education, innovation, and social service, the region can chart a path toward unity and resilience.

The Quran provides a timeless reminder:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided" (Surah Al-Imran, 3:103).

This is a call to action for scholars, community leaders, youth, and institutions like the J&K Police to work together toward a shared vision of harmony and progress. By integrating tradition with modernity and aligning faith with actionable change, Jammu and Kashmir can reclaim its potential and set an example for the world. Together, the region can emerge as a beacon of unity, hope, and opportunity, demonstrating the transformative power of collective action and shared purpose.

Syed Hidayat Bukhari works as a consultant with a US-based software company. He is also pursuing his PhD in Artificial Intelligence and is engaged in various social activities.). The author can be reached at +91-979-60-00751 or mailed at hidfan@gmail.com

Dadu's Golden Legacy

Bayeeda Iqbal



My dadu, a giant of Gurez Valley's heart
A helping hand, a love that never departs
Strong and resilient, with a heart of gold
A kind heart beating, with a love to unfold

Through life's joys and challenges, he stood tall
A rock for his family, through it all
He walked with kings, yet remained humble and kind
A true leader, with a heart of gold, one of a kind

I teased him, played with him, and made him smile
He'd get angry, but laughter would linger awhile
His eyes would sparkle, with a love so true
A heart of gold, that shone bright and new

His four sons stood strong, like rocks by his side
Refusing to let him break, they were his pride
Through every struggle, they held him tight
And kept him safe, through the dark of night
His grandchildren, angels by his side

Stood vigil, day and night, with love as their guide
Never leaving him, through joy or strife
A constant presence, a bond for life
His daughters stood like mothers, in his darkest hour
Supporting him, with a love that had no power
Though he's gone now, his legacy remains
A family united, with love that still sustains

Silence fell, as words were lost to time,
A once strong stride, now a memory's rhyme.

His children, grandchildren, wept and prayed,
For one more word, one more step, one more day

With every breath, they whispered low
"Stay with us, dadu, don't go"
But fate had other plans, his time had come
And left them with memories, forever to be sung

My dadu, a hero, in every sense of the word
A life well-lived, with a love that will forever be heard
In our hearts, his memory will forever stay
A shining star, that guides us on our way

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Dec 5 as holiday: Cabinet sent proposal to LG: Nasir Wani

SRINAGAR : Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani on Thursday said that the council of ministers has sent a proposal with regard to the holiday on December 5, marking the birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.



He said that hopefully, the holiday will be observed on this day again next year. "The holiday on this day (December 5) was cancelled, but a proposal has been sent to LG again by the council of ministers and hopefully from the next year, the holiday will be observed on this day," Wani told reporters after paying tributes to Sheikh Abdullah on his 119th birth anniversary at his grave.

The statement comes just two days after the National Conference (NC) leader and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Khanyar, Ali Muhammad Sagar urged the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to reinstate the public holiday on Sheikh Abdullah's birth anniversary. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he added that "it is an obligation to remember the ancestors, who have shown us the right path and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah is right at the top, who has secured rights like freedom of speech and other things for us and given us a freedom from the clutches of autocratic rule," he said.

Reviving Kashmiri Language And Culture Through Cinema

The Kashmiri language, a cornerstone of a rich and profound heritage, has long faced challenges in preserving its relevance among younger generations. Despite its literary depth and cultural richness, the language has struggled to retain its position in the fast-evolving landscape of global communication. However, recent initiatives, such as incorporating Kashmiri into school curricula, have been encouraging steps toward revitalization. Still, much more needs to be done. Among the most impactful mediums for language promotion, cinema holds a unique place. Unlike fleeting social media trends, films possess the power to leave a lasting impression, capturing the essence of a culture and etching it into the minds of audiences. The significance

of cinema in preserving and promoting Kashmiri language, culture, and



heritage cannot be overstated. On October 4, 2024, history was made as a Kashmiri-language feature film, Qouluf, The Ensorcelled, premiered in a cinema hall in Kashmir, ending a six-decade-long wait for such a milestone. Directed by Ali Emran and Produced by Mrs. Yaqout Mushtaq with vision and sensitivity, the film delves deep into the spiritual philosophy of

Kashmir while weaving in threads of the region's vibrant culture, timeless traditions,

and linguistic beauty. This cinematic masterpiece has carved a special place in history, signaling a new era of artistic revival for Kashmir. The film's narrative is not only an artistic exploration but also a cultural testament. By showcasing Kashmiri traditions, folklore, and spirituality, it underscores the intrinsic connection between language and

cultural identity. The fact that Qouluf was screened in Kashmir itself — a long-awaited moment — adds to its symbolic and historic significance.

Recently the poster of another forthcoming Kashmiri language feature film by the same director Ali Emran and producer Mrs. Yaqout Mushtaq was released adding another feather to the cap of director-producer duo. The local theater groups, too, have played a vital role in keeping Kashmiri language and culture alive. Through their tireless efforts, they have maintained a space for the expression of Kashmiri identity, even amidst numerous challenges. While their contributions are immense, the reach of theater remains limited compared to the far-reaching influence of films.

Minimally Invasive to 3D Printing: Dr. Saurabh Jaiswal Unveils New Frontiers in Heart Surgery

SRINAGAR: Dr. Saurabh Jaiswal, Senior Consultant in Cardiac Surgery at Narayana Hospital, Jaipur, has highlighted the transformative advancements in cardiac surgery techniques, emphasizing their role in delivering better outcomes for heart patients.

Speaking about the recent progress, he noted that innovative methods and technologies are enabling faster recovery, reduced surgical risks, and improved patient experiences. "In cases of serious heart conditions such as coronary artery disease, heart failure, and valvular heart disease, patients are now receiving more effective treatment. The recovery process has significantly improved due to these advancements," Dr. Jaiswal stated.

One of the key breakthroughs in cardiac surgery is minimally invasive technology. "Unlike earlier methods that required large incisions, we can now perform surgeries with tiny cuts, using specialized instruments and cameras. This results in less pain, minimal bleeding, and faster recovery for patients," he explained. Additionally, robotic-assisted surgeries are producing excellent results, offering enhanced precision and control during procedures. Dr. Jaiswal also discussed laser heart surgery, a technique particularly effective

for treating angina and blocked arteries. "Using lasers, we create small holes around the blocked artery, encouraging the growth of new blood vessels and



improving blood circulation. It is a less painful process, ensuring quicker recovery," he said. Another promising area is stem cell therapy, an emerging treatment for heart failure. "Stem cells are used to repair damaged heart tissues, fostering the formation of new tissues. While still under research, this technique holds significant potential for future cardiac care," he added.

Health facilities not up to the mark in J&K: H&ME Minister

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: The Health and Education Minister, Sakina Itoo on Thursday acknowledged the gaps in the healthcare facilities across the region and vowed to enhance the health infrastructure to meet public expectations. Speaking at the 42nd annual day of SKIMS, Itoo as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) emphasized the government's

commitment towards making healthcare accessible and efficient for all. Addressing concerns about inadequate health services in rural and remote areas, the Minister stated, "Healthcare facilities in J&K are not up to the mark. Many regions still face challenges in accessing basic medical services." "The government is aware of these issues and every effort will be made

to bridge the gap," she said, adding that the people of J&K still have to visit outside J&K for treatment and will take every possible effort to enhance the health facilities in J&K. She said the government is going to look into the demands of the SKIMS administration and every possible effort will be made to take institute to the new heights

Continued From P1...

Will renew

He stated, "Our Constitution guarantees the right to live freely, irrespective of one's religion or even if one chooses not to follow any religion. This fundamental principle of secularism must be upheld. However, a systematic effort seems to be underway to target our mosques and religious institutions. This is unacceptable." Omar further remarked, "We don't ask for appeasement and not seeking appeasement doesn't mean we should be targeted. Let us not victimise communities under the guise of opposing appeasement. Jammu and Kashmir has always been integral to India's foundation, and its secular ethos must be preserved."

Govt Not

"It is because of the powers with this government that the employees have been suspended," he said. He also assured that the government will ensure good governance. "We are not against employees. Voters and the government employees are equal for us, but we want them to be accountable and people should get their rights," he said

CM Pays

enduring impact on Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "Sher-e-Kashmir's vision continues to inspire us to work tirelessly for the betterment of our people. Today, we remember his sacrifices and reaffirm our dedication to his ideals of justice, equality, and communal harmony." Dr. Farooq Abdullah also expressed his deep respect for his father's contributions, calling him "a guiding light whose principles will always lead us forward." The commemoration programme was attended by senior party leaders, workers, and supporters who gathered to commemorate the life and legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, a towering figure in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt Planning

growing demand for specialised medical education, Omar announced that the government is planning to establish a dedicated Medical University at SKIMS. The proposal aims to expand the institute's capacity for academic and research excellence, making it a hub for medical education in the region. He assured that the government would extend all necessary support to address the challenges faced by SKIMS, including staff shortages, outdated equipment, and infrastructure needs. The chief minister commended the dedication of healthcare workers at SKIMS, particularly their efforts during crises. He called for providing them with the necessary resources and an environment conducive to delivering top-notch services. "SKIMS is not just an institute; it is a lifeline for the people of J&K. The proposed Medical University will further empower it to serve better," Abdullah said.

Omar said that snatching the autonomy has badly impacted the functioning of the SKIMS. "The institute had its own engineering wing for maintenance of all equipment but that isn't the case now due to which SKIMS is facing challenges. In a recent incident, the power supply of SKIMS Soura went off for around eight minutes and it is due to that SKIMS doesn't have its own engineering wing now."

He said the procurement procedures have been taking more time and that needs to be redressed and this premier institute must get all equipment and medicine on time. "There hasn't been any recruitment in many departments in SKIMS in the last 10 years and one nurse has to take care of 30 beds at the hospital, which is quite unfortunate," he said. Abdullah assured the SKIMS administration that every possible step will be taken for better patient care, recruitment and rationalisation so that the institute gets every necessary equipment and medicine on time will be taken.

Restoring SKIMS

He lauded SKIMS authorities for handling immense pressure due to inadequate infrastructure at district and sub-district hospitals, which forces patients with routine medical needs to seek treatment at SKIMS. He said that SKIMS' autonomy, once a hallmark of its efficient functioning, has been eroded, impacting its engineering and maintenance capabilities. "The autonomy of SKIMS has also been compromised, affecting its engineering and maintenance capabilities. Issues like power outages, oxygen plant malfunctions, and delayed procurement of medical supplies due to cumbersome processes are unacceptable and dangerous. These need immediate

attention. Additionally, critical areas like nursing have faced recruitment delays for over a decade. I have heard that a single nurse is responsible for 30 beds at night, which is unsustainable," he said.

Citing critical challenges like power outages, oxygen plant failures, and cumbersome procurement procedures, he called for immediate action to restore the institution's operational independence.

The chief minister also raised concerns over prolonged recruitment delays, particularly in nursing, where a single nurse is reportedly tasked with managing 30 beds at night—a situation he termed "unsustainable."

Omar said that SKIMS was envisioned by Sheikh Abdullah to provide advanced medical care within the region, reducing the need for patients to seek treatment outside Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated his government's commitment to supporting SKIMS by introducing new technologies, upgrading equipment, and alleviating its operational burdens.

"SKIMS represents a beacon of hope for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. My government will continue to stand with SKIMS to ensure it grows, thrives, and continues to serve the people with excellence," Omar said.

"I can attest to this personally, as I have visited SKIMS in various capacities. Although I never attended an official event at SKIMS, I have been here as a patient, an attendant, and to accompany my father during his treatment. When my father tested positive for COVID, I was advised to shift him to Delhi via air ambulance. However, he firmly refused, saying the treatment he could receive at SKIMS would not be available elsewhere. Remarkably, within five and a half days, the medical staff treated him and sent him home, restoring him to health during the challenging Delta wave. My family and I will forever remain grateful for this," he said

Work On 175-Km

Jammu City, with the originating point at Gurdaspur and the termination point in Jammu City. The pipeline is designed to transport up to 2 million standard cubic meters per day.

Officials added that the Gurdaspur-Jammu pipeline is expected to play a pivotal role in meeting the natural gas requirements of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Once completed, the pipeline will transport environment-friendly fuel to Jammu and, eventually, to Kashmir, enhancing the region's energy security. Union Minister Jitendra Singh shared an update on the progress through a post on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "The 160-km Gurdaspur-Jammu Tawi natural gas pipeline project has started, expected to provide domestic gas to households by 2026. GAIL is laying the pipeline alongside the Delhi-Katra Expressway, with work starting on sectionalizing valves in #Kathua and #Hiranagar."

Govt establishes

to register, track, and resolve grievances. The Information Technology Department has been directed to implement this integration within 15 days," the order reads. "Additionally, the office will adopt a hybrid communication approach, employing both online methods such as social media, helplines, and grievance portals, alongside offline methods including public interactions and district-level meetings. The Chief Minister's Secretariat will finalize the staffing and other operational modalities of the new office. This initiative aims to improve governance and strengthen the bond between the administration and citizens by addressing grievances effectively and incorporating feedback into policymaking and service delivery," the order added.

Winter vacations

the government's commitment to maintaining accountability and ensuring students' welfare during the harsh winter season. Govt Ignores

learning ABCs in a creche." Aspirants expressed their frustration, labelling the policy illogical and demanding a review of the criteria. "We are already stressed by the decade-long delay in recruitment, during which many of us have crossed the maximum age limit. Now, this illogical policy has further demoralized us," said one aspirant. Another candidate lamented, "The last SI exam was cancelled in 2022, and no recruitment has taken place since. Many of us are now ineligible despite waiting for years. This isn't our fault." The aspirants have demanded a one-time relaxation, urging

the government to raise the upper age limit to 35 years. Speaking to Kashmir Convener, JKSSB Chairperson Indu Kanwal Chib clarified that the board does not determine the eligibility criteria.

"We only notify what is given to us by the department," she said, distancing the board from the policy's design.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, assured that the issue had been raised with the concerned authorities and that a favourable decision would likely be announced soon.

Reserve list

Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCEE) Rules, 2018, amended by S.O. 61 on February 23, 2021.

The aspirants allege that the Reserve List, intended as a supplementary list for candidates ranked just below the final recommendations, is being erroneously used as a waiting list.

The lackadaisical approach by the authorities has raised concerns over transparency and efficiency in the selection process," they added.

Unlike a waiting list, which is used for unfilled vacancies, the Reserve List is designed to address category shifts during service allocation, ensuring merit-based selections, they said.

Despite repeated representations by candidates and clarifications from the General Administration Department (JKGAD), JKPCS continues this misinterpretation, they said.

A recent JKGAD order (No. 1826-JK(GAD) of 2024, dated October 24, 2024) explicitly stated that the JKCEE 2018 rules do not include a provision for a waiting list, further highlighting JKPCS's failure to implement the Reserve List correctly.

The aspirants argued that this mismanagement has created confusion, denied deserving candidates their rightful opportunities, and undermined transparency.

They said that such administrative lapses erode trust and compromise the meritocratic principles meant to guide the process.

The affected candidates urged the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and resolve what they describe as a "systemic issue," emphasizing the importance of filling all vacancies fairly and efficiently based on merit

PDP Questions

Narbal, involves significant land acquisition. He questioned whether the proposed satellite townships are intended for the local populace or outsiders.

"The government, elected with a massive mandate, must answer the people. Who are these satellite townships for? What compensation will landowners receive? These are not just questions from the PDP but from the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Calling for greater transparency, Dr. Beg demanded increased compensation for affected landowners and urged the government to act responsibly.

"Do the people of Jammu and Kashmir have any rights in these townships? Will the domicile laws be respected?" he asked.

Dr. Beg also disclosed that the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, through an order dated October 9, 2024, outlined plans for developing satellite townships along a 500-meter stretch on either side of the Ring Road. "This project, though presented under the guise of development, raises alarming questions about land rights, compensation, and the future of residents," he added.

He highlighted reports suggesting that approximately 1.20 lakh kanals of land would be required for the project, much of it sourced from fertile horticultural and agricultural zones—key components of Kashmir's economy.

The government's decision to reserve a one-kilometer-wide corridor (500 meters on each side of the road) prohibits construction, leaving landowners in a state of uncertainty.

"While compensation for land acquisition is standard practice nationally, there is no clarity here on how much compensation will be provided or whether it will be adequate," he said.

Dr. Beg alleged that compensation rates were far below market values, with payouts reportedly as low as 20% of the actual land price. "This land is not just a source of income; it is our heritage and lifeline," he said.

He also raised concerns about whether the proposed townships align with Srinagar's Master Plan and existing land use policies.

"The government must clarify the objectives of these townships and ensure the protection of local residents' rights," he urged. "Compensation must be fair, and the affected people

must be taken into confidence."

Dr. Beg further stressed the importance of constructive opposition to hold the government accountable.

"This is not about opposing for the sake of opposition; it's about ensuring justice and fairness. Measures like these affect the very existence and livelihoods of the people," he said

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No 0216010063404, which is Registered in the name of Rafique ud din Rafique S/O Bashir ud din Zargar. Address Main Chowk Bandipora Near SBI Bank, Now i want to change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Rafiya Rashid D/O Abdul Rashid Lone, Address Main Chowk Bandipora Near SBI bank, in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rafiya Rashid.
D/O Abdul Rashid Lone.
Address: Main Chowk Bandipora Near SBI Bank.

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ازنیابت خیاب

عنوان درخواست منجانب: محمد صادق گوگر ولد میر ولی گوگر سہیلہ بکھٹ
بغرض حصول شڈول ٹرایب سرٹیفکیٹ بحق احیام جین گوگر، سہیلہ صادق
سا، جو صادق گوگر

اشتہار ہیر اد اگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں کاڈنات سائل نہایت حصول سند شڈول
ٹرایب بزمہ گوگر بت مکرورہ دفتر پڈنا میں زیر کاروائی ہے سائل کا کتبہ ذیل
ہے

اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو سات دن کے اندر پدم دفتر پڈنا
میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں، معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل
قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار خیاب

