

Kashmir Convener



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Formulate Cultural policy: CM Omar

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stressed on the need for a comprehensive Cultural Policy for J&K



and urged the department to consult stakeholders. "Engage with the stakeholders to formalize a robust Cultural Policy," he said while chairing a review meeting

of Department of Culture here at Civil Secretariat, focusing on revitalizing Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief

Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary

Culture Suresh Gupta, Secretary PWD, and other senior officials. Kashmir-based officers joined via video conferencing.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized the original vision behind the conceptualisation of Tehzeeb Mahal in Srinagar, underscoring its role in promoting local artists. "Tehzeeb Mahal must serve as a space where artists can showcase their talent while preserving its core theme. Wherever possible, the available space should be expanded to align with this vision," he said. Omar Abdullah also directed the department to revive the restoration of Naagar Nagar at the foothills of Hari Parbat, a project halted a decade ago, to save its deteriorating walls. He also called for immediate filling of departmental vacancies to ensure seamless functioning. Earlier, Principal Secretary Culture presented a detailed overview of the department's functioning, highlighting its initiatives through directorates such as Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Libraries and Research, and the Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. The progress on various key projects was reviewed, including the restoration of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and archival repositories.

>>SEE ON P-7

Over 31,000 Treated For Drug De-Addiction In J&K In Two Years

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has implemented various initiatives to combat the rising drug abuse, particularly heroin addiction, in Jammu and Kashmir, with over 31,000 people treated for drug de-addiction, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Replying to a question raised by MP Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi in the Rajya Sabha about the alarming rise in drug abuse, particularly heroin addiction, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said, "Under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), the

Union Territory has received support for preventive education, awareness generation, rehabilitation centres, and treatment facilities."

The Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) has reached over 98 lakh people



in Jammu and Kashmir, including more than 8 lakh youth and 9 lakh women, the ministry said, adding, "In FY 2023-24, over 31,000

>>SEE ON P-7

Reservation rules Controversy

Ministerial committee to hold consultation with all stakeholders

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday constituted



a cabinet-sub-committee (CSC) headed by Social Welfare Minister Sakina Masood Ittoo to examine the grievances regarding reservation rules, which have triggered widespread resentment among the open merit candidates.

The CSC was constituted nearly 18 days after Omar-Abdullah cabinet approved it in its first cabinet meeting in Jammu on November 22.

The cabinet panel, according to an order, would examine the grievances projected by a section of aspirants for various posts regarding reservation rules, in consultation with all stakeholders.

According to the order, the CSC would be serviced by the Social Welfare Department, which deals with reservation and allied issues.

The CSC shall submit its report to the council of ministers, which is empowered to make amendments in reservation rules.

However, the order doesn't set any deadline for the committee to submit its recommendation to the NC-led government, which, in its election manifesto, has promised to fill all vacant posts in government departments in its first 180 days. In its manifesto, NC has pledged to rationalize reservation rules which have become

>>SEE ON P-7



Temperature Drops To Season's Lowest In Kashmir

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: As majority of places across Kashmir continued to witness prolonged dry spell, the mercury has plummeted to the season's lowest at several parts of the Valley with Srinagar, recording the coldest night so far at minus 5.4 degree Celsius. The cold wave has tightened its grip across

Kashmir with the majority of the areas recording the season's coldest night including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar has recorded the season's lowest temperature at minus 5.4 degree

>>SEE ON P-7

Gadkari assures MP Mehdi on compensation, project progress for Srinagar Ring Road

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday assured Srinagar Member Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is actively pursuing the issue of compensation disparity regarding the Srinagar Ring Road project with the District Collectors for the timely disbursement of



the remaining compensation amount.

In a letter to the MP, Gadkari has also assured that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Phase-III of the project is in progress. The project is set to be included under the National Highways (O) scheme, subject to the DPR's outcome, he added.

>>SEE ON P-7

J&K paid Rs 37,273 cr as GST since 2017: Gol

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has paid a whopping amount of Rs 37,273 crore as Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 2017 till November 2024, the government data revealed on Tuesday.

During the period, the region has received Rs 59,611 crore in SGST, IGST settlements, and compensation payments.

Jammu and Kashmir's annual GST collections have grown steadily, from Rs 2,320 crore in FY 2017-18 (July 2017 to March 2018) to Rs 6,704 crore in FY 2023-24.

For the current fiscal year, the collections till November 2024 stand at Rs 4,861 crore.

Similarly, the settlements and compensation rose significantly, peaking at Rs 11,171 crore in FY 2021-22, with Rs 5,932 crore disbursed so far in FY 2024-25.

"GST collection in India is classified into CGST, SGST, and IGST, depending on whether the supply of goods or services is intrastate or interstate," the government

said, adding that while CGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI), SGST is credited to the Consolidated Fund of the respective States.

"For inter-state supply and imports, IGST is levied and collected by the Centre, with the collected

>>SEE ON P-7

Chief Secretary, led SEC adds 5 more disasters to the SDRF list



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today while chairing the State Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) gave its approval for inclusion of 5 more local disasters to the already notified list of disasters as per SDRF norms.

Besides the Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, the meeting was attended by other members of the SEC including Principal Secretary Finance; ADGP L&O; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu and Secretary Revenue.

Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing from their respective offices. During this high level meeting, the members of SEC had consensus on adding five more disasters of local nature to the already notified list as per SDRF. These include Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), Lightning & Thunderstorm, Heavy Snowfall, Incidents of

Man-Animal Conflict and Boat Capsizing.

These disasters were notified as UT specific disasters for disbursement of the benefits to the affected persons as per the guidelines/items and norms set under SDRF. This step is going to bring much requisite relief to hundreds of people becoming victims of such disasters.

The SEC also gave its assent to release of over Rs 6 Cr in favour of Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Srinagar, Rajouri and Ramban on their requisition for additional funds for meeting the expenses of various disasters which have occurred in these districts during this year.

It also decided to release an amount of Rs 6.5 Cr in favour of HG/CD/SDRF for modernizing the force by providing different kinds of equipments like drones, remote controlled Lifebuoy, Fire entry suits, Power Descenders, and Battery operated cutter cum spreaders.

>>SEE ON P-7

J&K Records 327 Cybercrime Cases From 2021-2022

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: From 2021 to 2022, a total of 327 cybercrime cases were registered in Jammu and Kashmir while 178 people were arrested, 142 were chargesheeted, and one conviction was reported under cybercrime laws.

According to data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in 2020, 120 cases were registered while the charge sheet was produced in 14 cases. It added that 33 people were arrested



in 2020 while 23 were chargesheeted.

However, 2021 saw a rise in incidents with 154 cases registered and 49 chargesheeted. The number of arrests increased to 102, and 60 people were chargesheeted in the particular year.

>>SEE ON P-7

BOTTOM STORY

Bond of Kashmiri Muslim & Pandit That Weathered Kashmir's Storms Ends with a Heartfelt Goodbye

Sameer Showkin Lone

SHOPIAN: A story that may go a long way in settling the breeze of peace float across the two communities- the Kashmiri Pandits and the Kashmiri Muslims.

In the tranquil village of Zainapora, Shopian, nestled in apple orchards, the remarkable story of Chaman Lal (85), a Kashmiri Pandit and Mohammad Anwar Mir (80's), a Kashmiri Muslim, has today come to an end-with the demise of Anwar Mir.

This friendship was not an ordinary friendship but something that has recorded the political story of Kashmir. After 40 years of unwavering friendship, political upheaval, the friendship has left behind countless memories and a void that can never be filled, locals said.

Mohammad Hafiz, a retired teacher from the locality said their friendship stood as a beacon of communal harmony during the tough times of 1990's. This

friendship always kept alive the ray of hope- the return of Kashmiri Pandits. Chaman Lal, and Mohammad

30 years ago. In this moment of vulnerability, it was Anwar Mir who stepped forward, embodying the true essence of friendship.



Anwar Mir have shared a bond that transcends decades amidst challenges.

When political upheavals in the 1990s forced many Kashmiri Pandits to flee the Valley, Lal chose to stay back in his ancestral village, even as his family moved away. Life took an unexpected turn for him when he lost his eyesight nearly

For the past three decades, Mir had visited Lal daily, offering him support and companionship. Their routine strolls through the familiar streets of Zainapora, where they once dreamed of their futures as young men, are now symbolic of a deep and enduring bond, locals recall.

>>SEE ON P-7

Opposition Submits Notice For Moving No-Confidence Motion Against Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar

NEW DELHI: Opposition parties on Tuesday (December 10, 2024) submitted a notice to move a motion for removing Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar for allegedly conducting the House in a partisan manner.

Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Naseer Hussain submitted the notice to Rajya Sabha Secretary General P.C. Mody.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar is the ex-Officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The sources said about 60 Opposition MPs — including from the Congress, the RJD, the TMC, the CPI, the CPI-M, the



JMM, the AAP, the DMK — have signed the notice.

However, they said top Congress leaders who hold constitutional posts have not signed the notice.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and the floor leaders of various Opposition parties are also not among the signatories, the sources said.

The notice, spearheaded by the Congress, comes in the wake of turbulent ties between Opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

“All parties belonging to the INDIA group have had no option but to formally

submit a no-confidence motion against the learned Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the extremely partisan manner in which he has been conducting the proceedings of the Council of States. It has been a very painful decision for the INDIA parties to take, but in the interests of parliamentary democracy they have had to take this step,” Congress general secretary (In-charge, Communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on X.

TMC MP and its deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha Sagarika Ghose said, “Signed by all and being moved today.

Opposition MPs Protest On Adani Issue In Parliament Premises With Black ‘Jholas’

NEW DELHI: Several Opposition MPs on Tuesday demonstrated over the Adani issue in Parliament premises, carrying black ‘jholas’ (bags) with caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani printed on it and ‘Modi Adani Bhai Bhai’ written on the obverse side.

This is the latest in the series of unusual protests led by the Congress daily ahead of the sitting of Parliament in the morning.

the party's stance on various issues and the way forward in Parliament.

The protest comes a day after leaders of some INDIA bloc

The opposition protests on the Adani issue have been taking place inside Parliament complex ever since the start of the winter session.



parties protested in Parliament complex over the Adani row, with Rahul Gandhi conducting a mock ‘interview’ over the issue with Congress members wearing masks of Prime Minister Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani.

Standing in front of the Makar Dwar steps in Parliament premises, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge along with MPs of other opposition parties had on Monday raised slogans of “Modi, Adani ek hain” and “we want justice”.

The Congress and some other opposition parties have been demanding a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe following the indictment of Adani and other company officials in a US court.

The Congress has said Adani's indictment “vindicates” its demand for a JPC probe into the various “scams” involving the billionaire industrialist's conglomerate.

Rahul Gandhi has sought Adani's immediate arrest.

The Adani Group has dismissed all allegations as “baseless”.

Mamata should be allowed to lead INDIA bloc: RJD chief Lalu Prasad

PATNA: RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Tuesday asserted that West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee should be allowed to lead the INDIA bloc.

His comment comes days after Banerjee expressed her

intent to take charge of the anti-BJP coalition.

Prasad also said if the Congress, a major ally of the INDIA bloc, had any reservation about accepting Banerjee as the leader of the opposition front, it would “not make any difference”.

“Mamta Banerjee should be allowed to head the INDIA bloc,” the RJD chief said.

Asked about the Congress’ “reservation” to accept her as the opposition bloc leader, Lalu said, “The Congress’ opposition will not make any difference...She should be allowed to lead the INDIA bloc.”

Earlier, Lalu's son and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had said he had “no objection to any senior leader of the INDIA bloc, including Banerjee, leading the coalition”, but stressed that the decision must be reached through consensus.

Banerjee had, on December 6, expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of the INDIA bloc, signalling her intent to take charge of the alliance if given the opportunity.

The Trinamool Congress supremo said she could manage the dual responsibility of running the opposition front while continuing her role as the chief minister of West Bengal.

“I had formed the INDIA bloc, now it is up to those leading the front to manage it. If they can't run the show, what can I do.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR, ENGINEERING COMPLEX SRINAGAR RAJBAGH.

Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008. electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.F1/115/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/6051-59 DATED:09-12-2024.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K (U/T) e-tenders (in Double cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	E/ Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% E/ Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Electrical work for Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 03 No Fountains at Club Building Sports centre and office complex of WMDA	Rs. 15. 00 lacs	Rs. 600/-	Rs.	40 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	UT Capex BUDGET	Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Executive officer Wullar-Mansbal Dev. Authority vide order No.CEO/ WMDA/1129-32 Dated:-28-10-2024

1

Date of Issue of Tender Notice

10-12-2024

2

Period of downloading of bidding documents

10-12-2024 from 06.00PM

3

Bid submission Start Date

10-12-2024 from 06:00 PM

4

Bid Submission End Date

26-12-2024 upto 04.00 PM

5

Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)

27-12-2024 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.

6

Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)

To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), 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:
Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy.
As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-
a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids. 1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt). 23 All other terms & conditions shall be as are as per the SBD/ Contract Agreement. Engineer in
No.ERB/6051-59
DATED:-10-12-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir
Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

DIPK-9365/24

Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject: Third Seniority list of Junior X-Ray Technicians District Cadre Budgam
Reference: Administrative Department Health & Medical Education Circular No: 15-HME of 2024 Dated: 24-06-2024 duly endorsed by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir under No:- DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024,
CIRCULAR

Whereas, 1st Tentative Seniority list of Junior X-Ray Technicians District Cadre Budgam whose initial posting is in District Budgam was issued by this office vide No:- CMOB/4780-4806 Dated: 16-11-2024 and also disseminated among all DDO's for objection, if any.

Whereas, various representations have been received by this office alongwith supported documents for rectification, which were scrutinized and accordingly included in the 2nd tentative seniority list.

Whereas, 2nd Tentative Seniority list of Junior X-Ray Technicians District Cadre Budgam was issued by this office vide No: CMOB/5438-48 Dated: 02-12-2024 and also disseminated among all DDO's for objection, if any.

Whereas, one representation duly forwarded by Block Medical Officer Khag vide No:- BMOK/494 Dated: 23-11-2024 received by this office on 07-12-2024 regarding the seniority position of Mohd Ashraf Mir, Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh & Mohd Yaseen Dar and one representation from Masooda Bano duly forwarded by Block Medical Officer Beerwah alongwith supported documents regarding their seniority position as per SSRB Merit, which were scrutinized and accordingly included in the third seniority list.

Now, third seniority list of Junior X-Ray Technicians (borne on 2210) District Cadre Budgam is hereby framed and circulated among all concerned for information and objection, if any which should reach to this office within two days.

The list is available on DHSK website www.dhskashmir.org.
No:-CMOB/5999-6025
Dated: 10/12/24

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer, Budgam

DIPK-9314/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION-SRINAGAR-CORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (BELOW Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No:- 59 Fresh of R&B /Sgr-Core/2024-25 Dated:-09/12/2024 (E-tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (in lacs, incl GST	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	E/Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Project Authority	Ref to Auth/A.A	Ref To TS	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Construction of Synthetic Volleyball Court at BHSS Hazratbal	13.46	600/-	26920/-	30 Days	DDC Srinagar	96-DDCS OF 2024 DATED:- 06.08.202	EE/CORE/TS /41 OF 2024-25 Dated:- 07.08.2024	BEE CEE DEE

Major Head of Account =District Capex Budget

Position of AAA =Accorded

Position of funds =Available

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09.12.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09/12/2024; 6.00 P.M TO 16 /12/2024; 6.00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	09/12/2024 from 6.00 P.M
4	Bid Submission End Date	16/12/2024 upto 6.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17/12/2024 at 11.00AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Srinagar-CORE , Safa Kadal Srinagar

1. All Bidders have to quote the rates in BOQ Inclusive of GST.

2. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per above schedule:
Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

2.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Srinagar-CORE , Safa Kadal Srinagar (The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date, also mentioning the NIT No/S.No. / Name Of The Work)

2.2 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Srinagar-Core (as the case may be) within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

3. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter of intent.

c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. 6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

No: EE/Sgr-core/7883-89
Dated: 10.12.2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Srinagar Core

DIPK-9336/24

"Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir"

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HANDICRAFTS KUPWARA

Subject:- Implementation of Education Scheme for Grant of Scholarship to the Wards/Children of eligible Weavers/Artisans for the year 2023-24.

Notification

Applications on prescribed proforma are invited from children of eligible registered Artisans/Weavers Of District Kupwara for grant of Scholarship, notified vide Govt. Order No 80-JK(IND) of 2022 dated 12.05.2022. The payment shall be made on DST (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode to the beneficiary after producing the valid fees receipt duly signed by the head of School/Institute subject to the following condition:-

Eligibility:

Children (both boys and girls) of all Weavers/Artisans registered with the Handicrafts department having valid registration card/certificate with following conditions :

a) Having Below Poverty Line (BPL), PHH, AAY Ration Card (OR)

b) Having Economic Weaker Section (EWS) Certificate (OR)

c) Having income less than Rs. 90,000/- per annum with income certificate issued by the 1st Class Magistrate/ Tehsil Dar concerned. Besides, the applicant shall seek NOC from the concerned Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO), that he/she has not availed any benefits under the following schemes being implemented by these department:-

i) Pre-Matric Scholarship. ii) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme.

iii) Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme. iv) Any other Scheme.

Documents to be attached with prescribed proforma:

1) Domicile Certificate. 2) Marks Sheet of previous year. 3) Aadhar Card.

4) Bank Passbook. 5) Category Certificate, if any. 6) Ration Card/

EWS Certificate/Income Certificate.

7) NOC from concerned Zonal Education Officer and Tehsil Social Welfare officers. 8)

Non-fide Certificate issued by the Head of the School/Institute.

Scholarships:

The following amount of Scholarship shall be provided to the eligible children of weavers/artisans.

S.No.	Class	Rate of Scholarship to each student
1.	Upto Primary education	Rs.1500 per student per year for boys & girls of weavers/artisans
2.	From 6th to 10th Class	Rs.2000 per student per year for boys & girls of weavers/artisans
3.	From 11th to 12th class	Rs.3000 per student per year for boys & girls of weavers/artisans
4.	For Technical/Professional	As per actual course fee fixed by the Government.

Note: The Scholarships shall be provided to maximum of two children of weaver/Artisans.

Interested children of Artisans/ Weavers may submit their applications form duly supported by the requisite for malities within one month in the office of the undersigned

APPLICATION FORM

(Education Scheme for Grant of Scholarship to the Children of Artisans/ Weavers, for the year 2023-24)

1. Name (in Capital Letters).....

2. Father's/Mother's Name.....

3. Artisan Registration No (Attach photocopy).....

4. Residential Address.....

5. Date of Birth.....

6. Sex M/F.....

7. Contact Number of parents.....

8. Monthly income of parents/Guardian from all sources.....

9. Class for which scholarship is being sought.....

i) Name of the School/Institute.....

ii) Address and contact number of the institute.....

iii) Class in which the applicant is studying.....

iv) Date of admission.....

v) Enrollment No.....

10. Detail of Bank Account:

i) Name of the bank/Branch.....

ii) IFSC Code.....

iii) Bank Account Number (16 digit).....

iv) Aadhar No.....

Attach Photograph

Signature of the Applicant

Certified from Head of the School/Institution

It is certified that Mr/Ms..... Son/Daughter of.....

..... Rio..... Is a bona fide student of..... Studying in..... class under enrollment No..... Has not recommended for grant of scholarship during the previous academic year under the following schemes.

1. Pre-matric Scholarship 2. Post-matric Scholarship Scheme

3. Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme 4. Any other Scheme.

10 December 2024

Sd/- Assistant Director,
Handicrafts Kupwara

DIPK-9299/24

DCC/DLRC: Bandipora Banks Report Rs 1757 Cr Advances with 96% CD Ratio for September Quarter

DC Emphasizes People-Friendly Approach in Financial Services Delivery

BANDIPORA: The District Consultative Committee (DCC) / District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the September quarter of FY 2024-25 was held today at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and was attended by Vice Chairperson District Development Council (DDC), Kousar Shafeeq, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Lead District Manager (LDM) Bandipora, Shameem Ahmad Haji district officers from various departments, and representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NABARD, Stand Up India, and other stakeholders.

The meeting commenced with a briefing by LDM Bandipora, Shameem Ahmad Haji, on the performance of banks in both priority and non-priority sectors, as well as the progress of various beneficiary-oriented social security schemes.



During the meeting a detailed review of the performance of banks was carried out, focusing on the Annual Credit Plan, MSME sector achievements,

Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri emphasized the importance of improving coordination between line departments and banks to address these issues.

and specific schemes such as Artisan Credit Cards, Pradhan Mantri Weavers Mudra Scheme, PMEGP (KVIC, KVIB, DIC), NULM, NRLM, REGP, and others.

It was informed that banks in Bandipora had disbursed advances totaling Rs. 1757.24 crore, with a Credit Deposit (CD) ratio of 96 percent for the quarter ending September 2024.

The meeting also discussed various challenges and bottlenecks affecting the performance of banks in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri emphasized the importance of improving coordination between line departments and banks to address these issues.

He urged line departments and banks to enhance communication and improve awareness programmes, especially with respect to social security schemes.

He stressed the need for a more people-friendly approach to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of services to the public.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the low level of agricultural credit being disbursed by banks in the district and urged the concerned banks to enhance their performance in this critical sector. He also directed the concerned departments to actively follow up on sponsored cases to minimize rejection rates and work closely with banks to ensure better outcomes.

The Deputy Commissioner concluded the meeting by reiterating the need for a collaborative approach between all stakeholders to ensure the smooth implementation of various government schemes and improve financial inclusion in the district.

JKSSB Set To Advertise 304 Vacancies in Agri Dept

Srinagar, Dec 10: In a significant development for job seekers in Jammu and Kashmir, the Agriculture Department is set to advertise 304 vacancies through the Jammu and

and skill sets. While the official details of the positions and their eligibility criteria are yet to be announced, the notification is expected to provide clarity on the application process, educational qualifications, and other requirements.

This recruitment drive is anticipated to create a buzz among job aspirants, especially those seeking government jobs in the agriculture sector. The initiative aligns with the government's focus on strengthening agriculture, which remains a backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

The recruitment will be conducted under the aegis of the JKSSB, ensuring a transparent and merit-based process. Interested candidates are advised to stay updated through the official JKSSB website and notifications to ensure they don't miss the opportunity. (ANB)



Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), sources said, adding, the move is expected to bolster the department's workforce and contribute to the region's agricultural development.

Official sources told the Associated News Bureau, the upcoming vacancies will likely cover multiple roles in the department, catering to individuals with diverse qualifications

Water Testing Lab Staff Association Welcomes New Mission Director JJM

SRINAGAR: Chairman of the J&K Water Testing Lab Staff Association, Mohsin Atta Bhat, extended a warm welcome to Mr. Khurshed Ahmad Shah, the newly appointed Mission Director of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

In a statement, Mr. Mohsin Atta expressed optimism that under the dynamic leadership of the new Mission Director, the water testing laboratories in the region would reach new heights. He voiced hope that long-pending demands of water testing lab employees, including the enhancement of honorarium, would be addressed promptly.

Mr. Atta urged the Mission Director to expedite the approval of the enhancement file, which has been pending with the Finance Department for over a year. He pointed out that the file could not be cleared during the tenure of the previous Mission Director but expressed confidence that it would receive final approval under Mr. Khurshed Ahmad Shah's able administration.

He also appealed to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Jal Shakti Department and the Mission Director to direct the Chief Engineers of Jammu and Kashmir to imple-

ment the SLSSC-approved order from 2017. The order, which mandates a 10% honorarium enhancement for water testing lab

He emphasized the need for the concerned authorities to act on these provisions in letter and spirit.



employees every two years, has not been fully implemented since its initial enforcement in 2019.

Highlighting procedural obligations, Mr. Atta noted that before the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission guidelines in January 2019, the SLSSC Committee under the NRDPW guidelines served as the final approving authority for honorarium enhancement and other financial matters.

Additionally, Mr. Atta expressed hope that a comprehensive job policy for water testing laboratory employees would soon be formulated by the Jal Shakti Department.

In conclusion, the Chairman urged all water testing laboratory employees to unite, work with dedication, and leave no stone unturned in ensuring high water quality standards for the benefit of the common people.

Dy CM Advocates Introduction Of Innovative Teaching-Learning Methods

JAMMU: Highlighting the need for making education broad based with proper understanding to connect the younger generation with moral and practical aspects of life, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choud-

hary, said that this would enable youth to contribute more effectively in nation building.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at an annual day function organised by Birla Open Minds International School here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister further said that imparting education be made more holistic rather than confining it to test and assessment. "Knowledge with proper understanding and guidance is imperative to connect the youth with moral values besides practical aspects of life," he added.

Emphasizing on developing a productive teaching ecosystem where teachers are not restricted to curriculum, the Deputy Chief Minister said that they should also come up

with innovative ideas for imparting education. The Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the school in nurturing young minds while emphasising the importance

pressing issues affecting the region's transport sector. This high-level interaction underscored the growing concerns within the transportation community and highlighted the urgent need for policy reform and infra-



structural upgrades. The Deputy Chief Minister assured the delegation that the government is committed towards addressing these issues. He reiterated administration's focus on enhancing urban mobility and infrastructure as part of the broader development agenda. The dialogue is expected to pave the way for collaborative efforts between the government and the transport community, aimed at devising pragmatic solutions to revitalize the sector.

A deputation of Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools Association led by Deepak Handa (Senior Vice President) and Gaurav Charak met the Deputy CM apprising him of delay in fixation and regulation of fee of private schools by the FFRC.

The event also celebrated the achievements of students during the Achievers' Felicitation Ceremony, recognizing their hard work and dedication in the field of sports. The highlight of the evening was the thematic play, Anurakt, which captivated the audience with its powerful storytelling and vibrant performances, showcasing the students' talent and creativity. The play represented the importance of guidance of our parents in our life with emphasis on a stronger parents and children relationship.

Earlier, Chairman of All J&K Transport Welfare Association, Karan Singh Wazir, called on Deputy Chief Minister at civil secretariat to extend congratulations and address

APS Kaluchak Secures 2nd Position at National Innovation Award 2024

JAMMU: Army Public School Kaluchak achieved a remarkable feat by securing 2nd position at the prestigious National Innovation Award 2024, held at the Panipat Institute of Engineering and Technology (PIET). The school was awarded a cash prize of ₹500/- for its groundbreaking project OPTINAV under the 'Communication' category.

The innovative project, OPTINAV, focuses on enhancing underwater communication through laser beams, demonstrating a significant step forward for Naval communication systems. The project, developed by two brilliant Class 11 students, Abhishek Chahal and Dhruv Sharma, captivated the judges with its potential to revolutionize underwater communication technology.

The event featured 240 teams from educational institutions across the country, making APS Kaluchak's achievement a standout performance, particularly as school-level participants competing on a national stage.

The award was presented by Dr. Kiran Bedi, IPS, and former Lt. Governor of Puducherry, adding prestige to the accomplishment. The recognition highlights the school's dedication to fostering innovation, technical excellence, and STEM education among its students, inspiring them to achieve excellence at both national and international platforms.

This remarkable achievement underscores APS Kaluchak's commitment to nurturing creativity and equipping students with skills to excel in the ever-evolving technological landscape.



J&K Govt Reconstitutes Technical Appraisal Committee for Vehicle Tracking Project

Srinagar: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reconstituted the Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) for the ambitious "Project for Vehicle Location Tracking and Emergency Alert System." This restructuring, announced through Government Order No. 2062-JK(GAD) of 2024, appoints Mr. Ashag Hussain Dar, Director In-charge of NIELIT, as the new Chairman of the TAC, replacing Shameem Khan.

This decision, signed by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Sanjeev Verma, IAS, emphasizes the administration's commitment to streamlining the oversight and implementation of critical technological projects. The project is aimed at enhancing vehicle tracking and emergency response mechanisms across the region, aligning with modern safety and technology standards.

The order was issued in partial modification of the earlier Government Order No. 711-JK(GAD) of 2023, dated June 19, 2023. The revised committee structure is expected to ensure better coordination and efficiency in the project's execution.

The "Project for Vehicle Location Tracking and Emergency Alert System" represents a significant step towards improving public safety and transportation infrastructure. The reconstitution of the TAC is a strategic move to achieve the project's objectives more effectively. (ANB)

Army Public School Damana Celebrates Annual Sports Day

JAMMU: Army Public School Damana hosted its Annual Sports Day for the Junior Wing (Balvatika I to Class V) on Tuesday, marked by vibrant performances, camaraderie, and enthusiastic participation.



The event witnessed the gracious presence of the Chairman of the school as the Chief Guest and the Chairperson of the Family Welfare Organization (FWO), Chenab Brigade, as the Guest of Honour. Principal Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries, setting the stage for a day filled with sportsmanship and joy.

The event commenced with the Torch Run led by Junior Sports Captain Ayansh Sharma of Class V, followed by the ceremonial declaration of the meet open by the Guest of Honour, who released colorful balloons amid cheers. A soulful Saraswati Vandana and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp invoked blessings for the event.

The day's proceedings included an impressive Oath Taking Ceremony and a synchronized March Past by the four house contingents and the Cubs and Bulbuls of the Junior Wing, captivating the audience with their precision and energy.

Young participants from various age groups showcased their agility and determination in events such as Threads and Beads, Button Up the Shirt, Hurdle Race, and Relay Race. Highlights included colorful performances of Bhartyam and Yoga by students from Pre-Nursery to Class V, underscoring the school's commitment to holistic development.

Winners of various races were felicitated with medals during the prize distribution ceremony, while parents applauded the participants' spirited performances.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman encouraged students to actively participate in sports, highlighting its role in enhancing physical fitness, relieving academic stress, and fostering self-belief and teamwork. He emphasized that sports cultivate a sense of accomplishment and channelize energy toward productive goals.

Headmistress Mrs. Anurita Koul lauded the students for their enthusiastic participation, noting that sports instill discipline, dedication, and perseverance, preparing them to face real-life challenges.

The event concluded with the National Anthem, leaving attendees and participants inspired and refreshed.

Minister Javed Ahmad Dar Bereaved, Aunt passed away

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Elections Javed Ahmad Dar is mourning the demise of his aunt.

She passed away on Monday, and her Nimaz-e-Jinaza will be offered today, 10 December, at 10:00 AM at the ancestral graveyard in Ladoora Rafiabad, Baramulla.

In a social media post, Javed Ahmad Dar expressed his grief, stating, "With profound grief, it is to inform that my aunt (pufi) left for heavenly abode. Nimaz-e-jinaza will be offered at 10:00 AM in our ancestral graveyard in Ladoora Rafiabad today. Allah (SWT) darjaat buland karey marhuma ko."

The news of the minister's loss has prompted an outpouring of condolences from various political, social, and religious organizations. Many expressed their sympathies, offering prayers and support to the bereaved family.

Congregational prayers will be held at the minister's residential village in Ladoora Rafiabad, where friends and family are gathering to pay their respects. (KNS)

Revitalizing Agriculture

India's agricultural landscape is undergoing a transformative shift with the Union Cabinet approving a series of forward-looking initiatives in 2024. These policies aim to address critical challenges while fostering innovation, sustainability, and self-reliance in the sector. By providing financial support, modern technology, and robust infrastructure, the government seeks to ensure that Indian agriculture evolves in tandem with global standards. Among the noteworthy initiatives, the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) is set to enhance horticulture productivity by providing disease-free planting material, crucial for adopting climate-resilient and high-yield varieties. This program addresses a long-standing need for quality inputs to improve output and farmer incomes. The Digital Agriculture Mission represents a leap toward integrating technology in farming practices. By building a comprehensive digital public infrastructure and utilizing tools like the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), the initiative promises accurate data collection and decision-making. This is essential for optimizing resources and modernizing agriculture. Infrastructure has also been a focal point with the progressive expansion of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). By broadening the scope of eligible projects, including convergence with PM-KUSUM and other sustainability initiatives, the AIF supports the creation of community farming assets and integrated processing units, ensuring long-term benefits for farmers. While these measures are commendable, challenges remain in implementation. Ensuring timely disbursement of funds, capacity-building at the grassroots, and equitable access to technology are critical. A decentralized approach involving state governments, local bodies, and farmer cooperatives can amplify the impact of these initiatives. Moreover, continued investment in research and development is essential to sustain long-term agricultural growth. The recent policy measures underline the government's commitment to empowering farmers and modernizing Indian agriculture. If implemented effectively, these initiatives have the potential to not only transform livelihoods but also position India as a global leader in sustainable and resilient farming.



Shubham Kewaliya

In today's era, foreign trade constitutes an important attribute that paves the way for the progress of any nation. The basis of India's growing economy is also foreign trade. It is also noteworthy that 95% of India's

also carried out via Kuntasi, Padri, Nageshwar, Bagsara, Nagwara, Desalpur etc.

There is also clear evidence of what type of ships were built by the people living on the banks of Saraswati and Indus rivers around 4500 years ago and what was their shape. A seal has been recovered from the excavation of Mohenjodaro on which we can observe an engraving of a ship. An interesting feature can be observed in this ship which is a provision of a cabin for the sailors to stay on it. Along with this, we can also observe engraving of two birds on it. Scholars are of the opinion that the birds were probably used to work out the directions in the middle of the ocean.

There is a dire need to further establish this rich maritime heritage of India on the world stage. The first Indian Maritime Heritage Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in New Delhi and this shall serve as a stepping stone on the maritime heritage of India.

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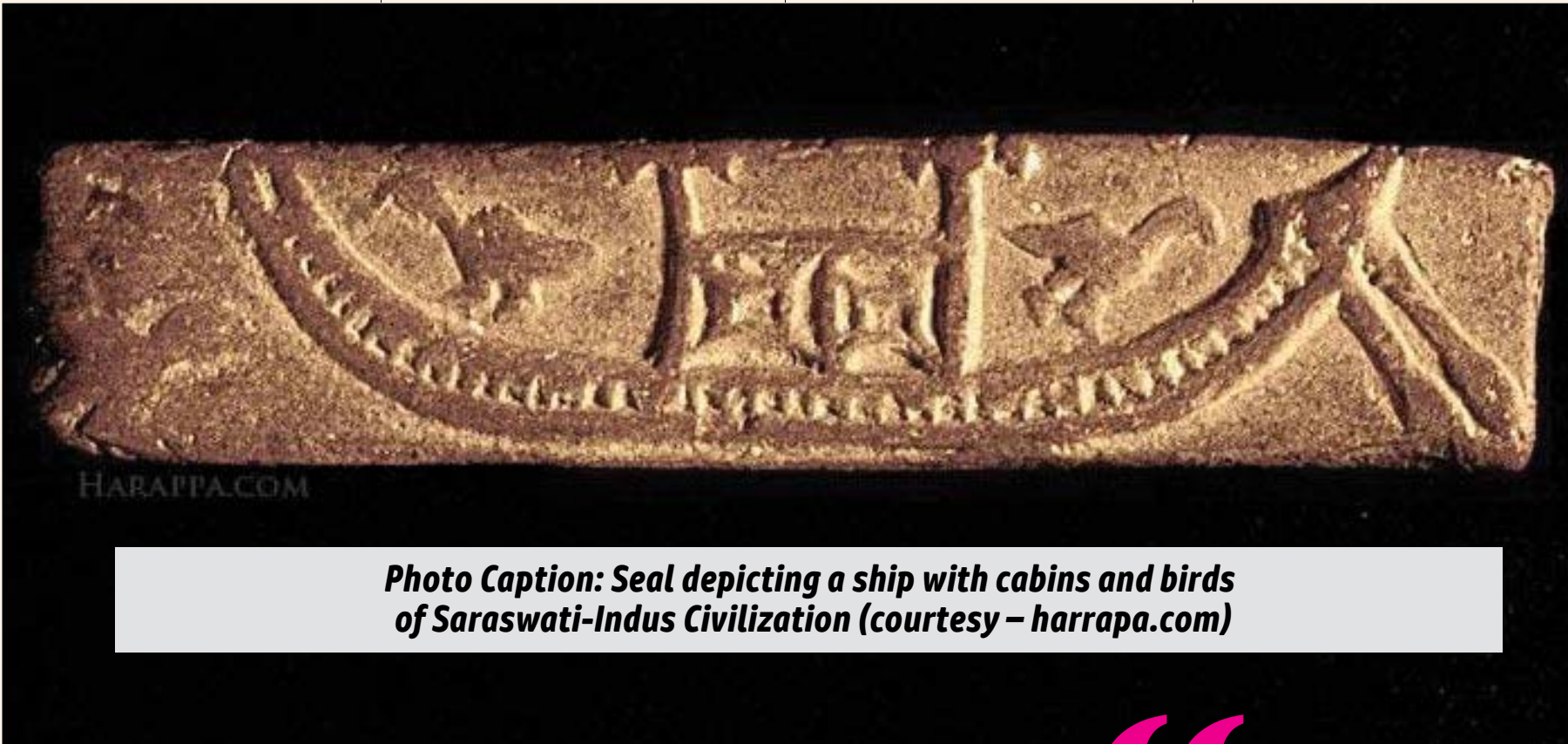


Photo Caption: Seal depicting a ship with cabins and birds of Saraswati-Indus Civilization (courtesy – harrapa.com)

foreign trade is conducted through sea route. Although the practice of conducting business across the sea is very ancient, but Indians were the first to introduce to the world successful businesses through sea route around 4500 years ago.

The reason for the rise of India's ancient Saraswati-Indus civilization was also international trade which was mostly done via sea route. Although the script of that civilization has not been deciphered yet, but archaeological evidence provides evidence of trade through sea route in the ancient civilization of India.

The archaeological site of Lothal, located in Ahmedabad district of present-day Gujarat, was the main centre of international trade through sea. This archaeological site was discovered and excavated by S. R. Rao of the Archaeological Survey of India. From Lothal we have recovered the remains of a huge dockyard which was built using baked bricks. Its size is 216×36 meters. It was connected to the sea through a canal. This dock, built 4500 years ago, is an example of the advanced engineering of our ancestors. From the excavations conducted inside this dock, we have found five anchor stones. This evidence proves that ships were anchored inside this dock. A 41 feet wide inlet was made in this dock for the ships to enter. From its width, it can be estimated that huge ships were built in the Saraswati-Indus civilization. S.R. Rao is of the opinion that about 60 tons of goods were loaded on a ship and sent to Mesopotamia via the Persian Gulf. Apart from Lothal, maritime trade was

A toy boat made of baked clay has been found from Kot Diji, an archaeological site of the Saraswati Indus Civilization. This boat has been designed in the form of a bull. Clay statues of humans have also been made inside the boat. This boat is more than 4500 years old, which indicates that the construction of ships had begun around that time.

Another significant find constitute the artifacts which were exchanged with other contemporary civilizations through maritime trade. The archaeological remains obtained from excavations show that cotton clothes were exported by the people of the Saraswati Indus Civilization. We have recovered a bundle of cotton cloth from Umma, an ancient city of the Sumerian civilization, which bears the seal of the Saraswati Indus Civilization. Beads made of semi-precious stones were also exported from India during that period. Combs made of ivory found from the archaeological site of Ur were also exported from India. A special type of pottery named Reserved Slip Ware has also been found in excavations at Lothal and Mohenjodaro. It is believed that these pots were imported from the archaeological site of Ur. A seal from the Persian Gulf found at Lothal is another example of bilateral trade.

The above archaeological evidences provides irrefutable evidence that 4500 years ago, on the basis of their advanced knowledge, ancestors of present-day Indians used to conduct international trade through maritime route with different ancient civilizations across the world.

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Purification of democracy is must to uproot corruption

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

Today corruption has taken its roots in the country. Honesty and morality have become like a deceitful deer. As a result, our work culture has contaminated and development projects have come to a standstill. Therefore, the government should make a separate strict law at the national level. The law for eradicating corruption will be completely effective and corruption will be uprooted, it cannot be guaranteed.

It is not that corruption takes place only by escaping the law, corruption also takes place under the guise of law. In this circumstance, if such a law is made, then care has to be taken that no such hole should be left in it so that the corrupt can escape. Although there are already many sections in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended from time to time) to deal with the corrupt, but they are not proving to be as effective.

It is proved by experience that this infectious disease is not going to be completely destroyed by making laws or shouting 'corruption-corruption'. It requires determination, fair initiative and strict enforcement of the law. There is no doubt that the disease of corruption runs from top to bottom. So, keeping a close eye on the bureaucracy alone will not be sufficient. Just as the cleaning of Gangotri is necessary for cleaning the Ganges, in the same way it is not possible to curb corruption without the purification of democracy.

In the elections, instead of social service, the emergence of money power and lathi system has given corruption the form of unbridled horse and loose half. Power and corruption have become two sides of the same coin. Is it hidden from anyone that how the person who used to walk on foot till yesterday, becomes the owner of wealth and immense opulence as he establishes his steps in the corridor of the power politics?

For the eradication of corruption, numerous commissions headed by Saryu Prasad, S.R. Das, M. C. Chagla, T.L. Venkatram, Dutta and others were formed from time to time in the country. All of them in their reports brought many of the then powerful leaders in the dock of horrific

allegations of corruption, but political gains and self-interest were given priority and those people were left free. Instead of being punished, such people were made participants of



the power and were placed on high rugs.

It is not that any particular party has done this work. Whichever party came to power, even if it stemmed from the struggle and mass revolution against corruption, unemployment and dictatorship, it also did the same thing. In such a situation, the morale of the corrupt increased instead of decreasing. As a result the disease, which was limited to certain pockets earlier, has spread from top to bottom like the Amarbel today. From the smallest to highest positions of the state, the hands of most are engulfed in corruption.

There is an urgent need to create a nationwide environment to eradicate corruption completely. Political persons

should declare without discrimination that there will be no place in their party for the corrupt or its patrons. What is happening today? The people of the ruling party, whom the

person who helps in corruption is no less guilty.

Today, along with the law, there is a need to awaken the public consciousness not only at the social level against the

opposition did not get tired of calling the 'corrupt' today; the saga of their penance and sacrifice is being sung by including the same people in the opposition parties. As long as this obscene policy is in place, neither corruption will be curbed nor anything will happen to the oppressors.

Only government efforts towards eradicating corruption cannot be trusted, because corruption is in every sphere of the society. The responsibility of its abolition cannot be left to the government institutions alone. Unless the common man of the nation will stand against this sin and crime, it is not possible to get rid of it. Just as the oppressor as well as the victim of atrocities is equally guilty, in the same way the

corruption prevailing in the society and system, but there is also a need for such dedicated people who can do this work like a mission. The Central Government should also organize such fair, effective agencies which are capable of bringing punishment to the corrupt without any discrimination. It cannot be expected from the agencies of the State Governments alone that they can take from lowest to highest positions within the ambit of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

(Author is a technocrat and academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)

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CM Omar Abdullah reviews functioning of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Department

Directs NeVA operationalisation before upcoming budget session of J&K Legislative Assembly

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a review meeting of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Law Achal Sethi, Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita and other senior officials. During the review, the Chief Minister assessed the functioning of the High Court, subordinate courts, the Advocate General's Office, and the Legislative Assembly.

He was briefed on the sanctioned strength of the judiciary and discussed key issues,



including ongoing litigations, e-stamping, e-courts, and e-court fee systems. The implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the J&K Legislative Assembly was a key point of discussion.

The Chief Minister directed officials to liaise with the Ministry of Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, to ensure NeVA is operationalized before the

upcoming budget session of J&K Legislative Assembly. Other components included the classification of laws, appointment of officers in charge of litigations, opinion and vetting of notifications, and the department's achievements in 2023-24.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the Rs 908 crore New High Court Complex project in Srinagar, enquiring about progress, timelines, and phase-wise completion of the project. He emphasized the importance of adhering to deadlines to ensure the timely delivery of this critical infrastructure.

Satish Sharma visits NABARD J&K Regional Office

Emphasises focus on outcome-based implementation of programs

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, visited the Jammu & Kashmir Regional Office of NABARD.

Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, Bhallamudi Sridhar; Deputy General Manager Urmil Lata; General Manager, Vikas Mittal and other officers were present on the occasion. During the visit, the Minister was apprised of the diverse initiatives being undertaken by NABARD to foster development of Jammu & Kashmir and uplift the lives of rural communities. The Minister also took detailed review of interventions of NABARD in terms of their sustainability and meeting the end objectives.

The Minister expressed keen interest in NABARD's initiatives and lauded its efforts in transforming the socio-economic fabric of rural J&K. He emphasized the need for scaling up interventions to ensure last-mile connectivity and advised NABARD to focus on outcome-based implementation of programs. Satish Sharma also assured full support from the Government in NABARD's endeavours to contribute to the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, a comprehensive Power Point Presentation detailing NABARD's various developmental activities and prospects for J&K was made by Assistant General Manager, Sonika Rana.

Secy RDD conducts surprise inspections in Bishnah, Arnia; attaches 3 employees

Orders recall of staff deployed without competent authority approval; reviews progress on Badminton Court in Changia

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Tuesday conducted surprise inspections in Bishnah and Arnia blocks to assess their administrative functioning and ongoing developmental works.

During the inspection, it was found that three Panchayat Account Assistant from Bishnah block and one from Arnia block were attached in violation of standing government instructions.

Additionally, several ministerial staff members were irregularly deployed in offices other than those of the Rural Development Department.

The Secretary issued on-spot instructions directing block officials to immediately recall



all staff deployed without approval of competent authority to their original places of posting. He expressed concern over these violations, emphasising the need for strict adherence to government guidelines to ensure transparency and efficiency in the functioning of rural administrative units.

Aijaz Asad directed immediate corrective measures and warned against any further deviations from standard protocols.

DC Kulgam chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting

Instructs strict enforcement of traffic rules, penal action against violators

KULGAM: In order to devise strategies to enhance road safety across the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam. The meeting held a detailed review of ongoing initiatives and future action plans. It also discussed implementation of the Road Safety Act, rectification of black spots, installation of crash barriers, road signages, etc.

The DC took stock of progress on tasks assigned to various departments during previous meetings, with officers presenting updates on measures taken to address road safety concerns.

The meeting witnessed active participation from committee members, who deliberated on strategies to curb traffic violations, implement traffic calming measures and minimize accidents.

Athar impressed for strict enforcement of traffic rules and penal action against violators. He also instructed for large-scale awareness campaigns by the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) and other stakeholders, besides he instructed for removal of roadside encroachments to ensure smoother traffic flow. The DC also instructed immediate rectification of pending black spots and identification of new ones.

Saurabh Bhagat chairs awareness camp-cum-seminar on "Common & Rare Genetic Disorders"

JAMMU: The Department of Pediatrics, GMC Jammu in collaboration with Department of Zoology/ Institute of Human Genetics, University of Jammu and Department of Science & Technology, organised an awareness camp cum seminar on the topic "Common and Rare Genetic Disorders" at SMGS Hospital, Jammu.

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Saurabh Bhagat talked about the collective role of medical science and non-medical science in conducting medical investigation and treatment



of diseases in relevance to outcome of the investigations. The Commissioner Secretary mentioned about the role and impact of Artificial Intelligence on Optimizing Diagnosis and Treatment Plans for Rare Genetic Disorders.

He said that the Department of Science and Technology is funding many research projects. He added that doctors must take initiative for entrepreneurship and start ups in the field of medical science.

DC Baramulla chairs 15th NCORD meeting, focuses on tackling Drug Abuse

BARAMULLA: In order to strengthen the district's fight against drug abuse and trafficking, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Tuesday chaired the 15th NCORD meeting, here, meeting focused on preventive measures, early identification of drug addicts, and rehabilitation strategies through a collaborative approach involving various departments.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for capacity-building among key stakeholders, including educators, health workers, and ICDS staff. He directed the concerned departments to organize training sessions for staff at the primary, middle, and higher secondary levels. These sessions aim to help frontline workers identify early signs of drug addiction and provide timely interventions.

Minga Sherpa also highlighted the importance of health camps and screening programs to identify cases of substance abuse. These initiatives will be conducted at schools, colleges, and community centers. Awareness campaigns targeting students, parents, and the broader community were also



recommended to educate them about the dangers of drug use and the importance of seeking help.

Community engagement was a key focus, with the DC calling for workshops and awareness drives involving parents and local leaders to foster a collective approach to prevention. He stressed the need to create support networks for addicts and their families, ensuring access to rehabilitation centers for recovery and reintegration into society.

In a bid to further enhance efforts, the DC directed the police to identify

drug hotspots within the district and implement targeted interventions in these areas to curb the spread of drug abuse. Additionally, the DC instructed the Agriculture Officer to identify areas where unsustainable crops are being grown and to provide alternative crops that are more sustainable, offering economic stability while reducing dependence on harmful practices.

A robust monitoring and data collection system was proposed to track identified cases and ensure proper follow-up.

DLSA Srinagar, Budgam observe 'World Human Rights Day' at Central Jail Srinagar

SRINAGAR: To raise awareness among jail inmates about human rights and the importance of legal aid in safeguarding these rights, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with DLSA Budgam, under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority, observed 'World Human Rights Day' at Central Jail Srinagar.

programme was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar and Om Prakash Baghat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/Pr. District & Sessions Judge Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary of DLSA Srinagar.

The event was graced by presence of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Srinagar/Budgam; Shahbaz Hussain Bhat, DySP Central Jail Srinagar, along with officials of Central Jail Srinagar, Officials & Legal Aid Defence Counsels of DLSA Srinagar, and para-legal volunteers of DLSA Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, Nusrat Ali Hakak emphasized the significance of World Human Rights Day in promoting dignity, equality and justice. She



encouraged inmates to understand and exercise their rights within the framework of law and highlighted the vital role of the legal system in protecting those rights.

Shahbaz Hussain Bhat, DySP, Central Jail emphasized the jail inmates about the significance of human rights and their universal application, even within correctional facilities. He spoke about the importance of upholding dignity, ensuring fairness, and recognizing the fundamental rights of every individual, regardless of their circumstances.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, and Urba Rashid, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, served as resource persons during the event. They conducted informative sessions to educate the inmates on various aspects of human rights, the importance of legal aid, and the mechanisms available to address grievances effectively. The event underscored the commitment of the DLSA to ensuring access to justice for all, including those in incarceration.

DC Shopian discusses establishment of Nursing College with Principal GMC Anantnag

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar held a meeting with Principal GMC Anantnag, Prof (Dr.) Rukhsana Najeeb in order to discuss issues related to the establishment of Nursing College Shopian.

The meeting deliberated on key issues confronting the onset of normal academic activities post University and Nursing Council recognition in view of available resources.

Adequate availability of land, asset and manpower creation as per the University and Nursing Council norms was deliberated minutely and future course was sorted out for the early but effective operation of the college.

The officers apprised that the existing space allotted to the Nursing College Shopian at an already established Nursing School is inadequate for such a big institution. The area has also congested access and parking issues. The need to project the demand for the construction of the college at a more spacious space to be provided by District Administration was emphasised on the occasion.

DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of Health Department

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health Department at the V.C room of DC Office, Ganderbal.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ganderbal, Dr. B.A. Khan, presented a detailed overview of various health indicators and Centrally Sponsored schemes under the National Health Mission (NHM).

The DC conducted an in-depth review of critical health department indicators, including ABHA ID Generation and Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR), monitoring of District Public Health Laboratories (DIPHL), HB testing for lactating and pregnant mothers, enrollment of senior citizens aged



70 and above under PMJAY.

While reviewing these indicators, the DC emphasized achieving 100 percent ABHA ID and HPR generation and directed continuous monitoring of DIPHL and Common Collection Booths (CCB).

The status of staff strength across various health institutions was also discussed. The CMO was instructed to initiate the process of filling vacant positions promptly. The DC also set a deadline for completing HB Testing for lactating and pregnant mothers by the end of December. Strict directions were issued to ensure 100 percent enrollment of senior citizens aged 70 and above under PMJAY.

DLSA Baramulla observes 'Human Rights Day'

BARAMULLA: As part of the calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla today observed 'Human Rights Day' in the ADR Centre, District Court Complex Baramulla.

The programme, organized under the guidance of Jawad Ahmad, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Baramulla and under the supervision of Javid Ahmad Parry, Sub Judge/ Secretary DLSA Baramulla, was attended by officers of LADC, Panel Lawyers and Law Students from Sopore Law College, Staff Members and PLVs of DLSA Baramulla.

During the event, Secretary DLSA gave a brief outline and objective of universal declaration of human rights and highlighted the purpose of observing Human Rights Day. He said that this day is observed to promote human rights awareness, equality and dignity for all. It also aims to educate young people about human rights and significance of these values. The other speakers who enriched the audience about the importance of observing 'Human Rights Day' included Adv. Zahoor Ahmad Mir (Chief LADC), Adv. Ashfaq Hussain Wani (Deputy LADC), Adv. Syed Sibtain Geelani, and Law Students from Sopore.

Hair Loss:

Causes and Treatment

Hair loss, also termed alopecia in medicine, is a condition caused by an interference in your body's normal hair growth cycle or damage to your hair follicles. These follicles are tunnel-shaped structures within your skin from which your hair grows. Each strand has a follicle that connects it to your skin. On average, you shed between 50 to 100 strands of hair daily as your hair cycles through different stages. However, any factor that upsets this cycle will cause your hair to shed excessively more than it regrows, leading to alopecia. Though hair loss most commonly affects the scalp, it is not exclusive to this body part and can occur anywhere on the body.

Hair growth cycle

Let's first talk about your natural hair growth cycle to understand why and how hair loss happens. Hair follicles do not constantly produce hair. They do so by cycling through three stages at separate times as follows:

Anagen (growth) phase

During this stage, your hair follicles are most actively dividing, so more new hair is grown. This stage typically lasts two to five years. At any given time, about 80% to 90% of healthy hair follicles are in this stage.

Catagen (transitional) phase

Following the anagen phase, your hair follicles move into a brief transitional phase known as the catagen phase. This phase heralds the end of active hair growth and causes hair follicles to dwindle. It lasts about one to two weeks.

Telogen (resting) phase

Before producing new hair fibers, hair follicles go into a resting phase known as the telogen phase. It typically lasts around three months. At any given time, about 5–10% of your hair is in this phase. Before re-entering the growth phase, your hair falls out from its follicle.



Causes of hair loss

Many factors contribute to hair loss. What triggers hair loss determines if your hair can regrow on its own or not, such as:

High levels of stress. A body under stress can force hair follicles to stay resting for a typically more extended period, causing them to fall out eventually. This stress-induced hair loss, called “telogen effluvium (TE),” is transient and reversible, lasting up to 6 months.

Causes of stress-related hair loss include:

- Sickness, like COVID-19
- Grief
- Financial distress
- A relationship breakup or divorce
- Giving birth

Nutritional deficiencies. A poor diet may wreak havoc on your hair anatomy and growth. The deficiency of essential nutrients like vitamins B3, E, D, iron, zinc, biotin, and proteins can trigger severe hair loss. Taking a regular, healthy diet is therefore imperative.

Hereditary hair loss. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, hereditary hair loss is the most common cause of baldness. Experts refer to hereditary hair loss as androgenic alopecia. This type of hair loss follows a predictable pattern and is often known as male pattern baldness or female pattern baldness. The gene responsible for this type of hair loss is the androgen receptor gene. This gene boosts the androgen receptor activity and thus augments the androgen levels. Unlike telogen effluvium, hereditary hair loss is permanent if not treated on time.

Certain bad hair habits also trigger hair loss in the long run, such as:

Females may wear hairstyles that tend to cause constant pulling on their hair, leading to bald spots known as traction alopecia. Hairstyles like tight, high ponytails, wet messy buns, and tight braids repeatedly stress your hair out.

Overusing hot styling tools tends to strip off the moisture, making it prone to breakage.

Trichotillomania. This mental health problem induces an irresistible urge to pull out hair from your scalp or other body parts. These people inappropriately use hair pulling to cope with negative emotions, such as stress, boredom, or anxiety.

Alopecia areata. When your immune system strongly disagrees with accepting your hair follicles as a part of your body, a condition called alopecia areata ensues. Surprisingly, the hair loss is not permanent in most cases as the follicles preserve their ability to regrow hair.

Medications like chemotherapy drugs can interfere with your hair growth and cause hair loss.

Gender. According to the American Hair Loss Association: roughly 85% of men will have remarkable hair thinning by age 50. In contrast, research shows that up to 40% of women will have noticeable hair loss by age 50.



Vomiting:

Why It Happens and What To Do

Causes of vomiting

This violent reversal of food and fluids in the digestive tract is often the body's way of removing perceived poisons from the body. Some causes of vomiting are:

Gastroenteritis. Also known as the stomach bug.

Food poisoning. It's normally caused from improperly prepared food.

Overindulgence. Often of alcohol or marijuana.

Medications. Often happens during chemotherapy.

An immune response is sensed by the medulla and/or vagal nerve in the brain. The brain then sends a message to the digestive system to urgently expel the perceived toxins. The digestive system is then triggered by the nervous system, and an automatic reflex occurs.

Ways to prevent vomiting

Though preventing vomiting over a lifetime may be an overly ambitious goal, implementing certain preventive measures can definitely diminish the number of episodes.

Hand washing. Though washing your hands may seem like a basic practice, it is often incorrectly done or not performed at all. Hand washing is the most important step in preventing gastroenteritis and other illnesses. According to the CDC, one in three gastric illnesses and one in five respiratory infections can be prevented by regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds.

Probiotics. The digestive system depends on bacteria. Did you know there are good bacteria and bad bacteria, and the body can decipher the difference? To prevent gastric upset, many have found taking a probiotic capsule helps. Today in our society, we often do not ingest enough healthy bacteria. Consuming foods rich in probiotics and probiotics can also help restore and maintain gastric health.

Fluid intake. Water is a vital nutrient for cellular health. Since water is the universal solvent, it has the amazing ability to dissolve things, even within our bodies. Water helps flush waste and toxins. Therefore, adequate water consumption is helpful in preventing vomiting and dehydration.

Ginger and acupressure wrist bands. When nausea is near or motion sickness impending, ginger capsules and acupressure wrist bands have shown to provide relief from nausea and prevention of vomiting.

What to eat when feeling sick?

The inevitable has happened. You have the stomach bug. Now what? There is no need to panic.

Though you may not feel like it, it is important to take in extra fluids. Your



body can go without food longer than water. This may require you to take small, frequent sips or eat small, frequent meals.

Gastric churning, oral salivating, and stomach rolling — unfortunately, we all know these queasy feelings of oncoming vomiting. Childhood has taught us this uncomfortable sensation, and the early days of pregnancy reinforce the knowledge. However, some may wonder if vomiting can be prevented? Or ask how should you cope with vomiting when it does happen? This article will address those questions and more.

Some ideas to maintain fluid intake while sick are as follows.

Electrolyte drinks or rehydration solutions

- Mint and chamomile tea
- Coconut water
- Low-sugar ice pops
- Vegetable or bone broth

All these suggestions promote fluid balance while also helping decrease nausea, electrolyte imbalances, or dehydration. Whether you are an adult, pregnant woman, child, or teen, the mission is the same when sick. Drink your water. Maintain adequate fluid consumption. Prevent dehydration. Beware: Caffeinated drinks are diuretics, so they promote urination

and should be avoided.

If able to tolerate solid foods, crackers, bread, or other bland foods can be eaten in small amounts and at frequent intervals.

Though vomiting is a dreaded sensation, most of the time vomiting and diarrhea is relieved within 24 hours. If not, be sure to drink extra fluids and talk to your medical provider. Dehydration can quickly and negatively affect people suffering from prolonged vomiting or diarrhea.

How to restore gut health

Many of the things used to prevent gastric upset are also helpful in restoring gut health. Prebiotic and probiotic rich foods are helpful in replacing the good bacteria that was killed or expelled during the vomiting episodes. Some foods rich in prebiotic and probiotics are as follows.

Yogurt. This is the most commonly consumed food rich in probiotics, most likely due to its creamy texture and yummy flavor. However, be sure to read the labels. Not all yogurts are created equal. Look for yogurts high in probiotics.

Kombucha. This is a fermented tea and juice drink that has a tangy taste and bubbly feel. Some people have replaced their daily soda with this nutrient rich, probiotic drink. It's a win-win...bubbly drink and healthy tummy.

Vegetable and bone broths. These are thought to reduce inflammation in the gut, boost the immune system, and provide restorative amino acids. Broth can be purchased from your local grocery store or easily made at home.

Though yogurt seems to be the probiotic food of choice for children, adults and those managing diabetes will need to be aware of the high sugar content. Kombucha and broth are both low in sugar and may be the preferred food for these individuals.

Though vomiting is many people's most dreaded symptom of sickness, it normally lasts only 24 hours or less, and preventive measures are possible. Thankfully, certain foods help prevent and restore gut health. During bouts of vomiting, adequate fluid intake is the greatest priority.

NEET PG Admissions

Doctors at SKIMS Bemina protest against reducing OM quota

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: The doctors from SKIMS Medical College Bemina on Tuesday staged a protest against the reduction in the Open Merit (OM) quota in NEET PG admissions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Doctors as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) expressed their concern over the drastic reduction in open merit seats for postgraduate medical courses.

The allocation has dropped from 75% in 2019 to just 38.5% in 2024, leaving limited opportunities for merit-based candidates after 50% of the seats are allocated to the All-India Quota.

They questioned the rationale behind extensive reservations, especially in specialized branches, arguing that it compromises the production of skilled doctors and undermines healthcare quality. "All students access the same resources during MBBS. Why should extensive reservations apply to NEET PG specialty courses?" one of the protesting doctors asked.



The protesters criticized Rule 17 of the J&K Reservation Rules (2004-2005), describing it as unfair to open merit candidates. They pointed out that when a reserved category candidate upgrades to a higher specialty, the vacated seat is reassigned to another reserved candidate rather than to an open merit candidate. This, they argue, disproportionately benefits reserved candidates.

The doctors warned that the

reservation system is already harming healthcare standards, with less qualified individuals securing seats and promotions. They emphasized the need to prioritize merit to ensure a competent healthcare workforce.

Medical professionals have voiced concerns over the impact of reservation-based selections on the quality of healthcare and the reputation of medical institutions. They emphasized that healthcare should remain

uncompromised, urging that leadership roles in the sector should be occupied by competent doctors selected on merit. The doctors highlighted the issue of candidates, who secure undergraduate medical seats through reservation but fail to qualify for postgraduate seats on open merit. They suggested that such candidates should be required to serve as medical officers in underserved areas, utilizing their reservation benefits for the greater good. Calling for a review of the reservation policy, the professionals stressed that only truly deserving candidates should benefit from these schemes. They appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakina Itoo to address their grievances promptly and implement reforms to ensure fairness and uphold meritocracy in medical admissions. The protesters warned that the healthcare system could face further deterioration if immediate action is not taken, framing their demands as essential for the betterment of the health sector and medical education

GoI approves Rs 256.46 cr for tourism development in Ladakh

Raja Syed Rather

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned Rs 256.46 crore for a series of tourism development projects in Ladakh to bolster the region's growing tourism sector. This key announcement was made by Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, during a Lok Sabha session on December 9.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the allocated funds will be directed towards several initiatives under the schemes of Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, and Assistance to Central Agencies, with the aim of promoting infrastructure and enhancing adventure tourism. Shekhawat said the Ministry of Tourism is playing a crucial role in supporting initiatives to cultivate tourism, including promoting local events and leveraging social media campaigns.

"Efforts such as the Incredible India Digital Portal and the launch of the Incredible India Content Hub are designed to provide stakeholders in the travel industry with accessible resources to promote India as a leading tourism destination," he said.

Key components of the funding include Rs 77.33 crore for developing tourist facilities along vital routes and Rs 86.39 crore earmarked for facilities in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar and Zaskar regions. The minister said Rs 91.84 crore has been allocated for developing infrastructures for the Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Kargil-Leh route.

He said the government also plans to enhance community involvement and sustainable tourism growth through its newly introduced Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023. This initiative aims to equip local households with essential kits to establish homestays.

Ex-ISI Chief Charged For Multiple Offences

RAWALPINDI— Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hamid has been formally charged with multiple offences, including engaging in political activities and violating the Official Secrets Act, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

These violations have compromised state security and interests, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. Additionally, the charges include misuse of authority and government resources, as well as causing wrongful losses to individuals.

The process of field general court-martial (FGCM) was initiated against Lt Gen (ret'd) Hamid, who has served as the chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act on August 12.

"[...] and in the first place has been formally arraigned on charges of engaging in political activities, violations of Official Secret Act detrimental to safety and interest of the state, misuse of authority & government resources and causing wrongful loss to a person(s)."

the military's media wing said in a brief statement issued on Tuesday.

Moreover, the military's media wing said the former spy master's role in creating agitation and unrest including May 9 riots

"in collusion with vested political interests" was also being investigated.

The May 9 events refer to the violent protests that broke out in the country last year following the arrest of jailed PTI founder Imran Khan in a corruption case.

During the riots, the alleged supporters of PTI founder ransacked and attacked the public properties including military installations, prompting the civil-military leadership of the country to try the rioters under Army Act.

Besides PTI founder Imran, dozens of other party leaders have been implicated in the cases related to the May 9 mayhem.

In the statement today, the ISPR said: "During the process, involvement of Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (Ret'd), in events related to creating agitation and unrest, leading upto multiple incidents including but not

limited to 9th May 2023 incident for fomenting instability; at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, is also being separately investigated," read the statement.

"Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (ret'd) is being afforded [...] all legal rights as per the law," it added.

Speaking to Geo News, Brigadier (ret'd) Rashid Wali said the charges levelled against the ex-spy master were of a serious nature.



He said the trial of the former military officer would be conducted in the military court following which the court would announce its verdict.

He said after that Hamid could lodge an appeal against the court verdict as well.

The ex-ISI chief was taken into custody by the military on charges of abuse of power and violating the Army Act earlier this year in August.

The Pakistan Army, following Supreme Court orders, had conducted a detailed inquiry to investigate complaints against Hamid in the Top City case, according to the army's media wing.

It added that multiple instances of violation of the Pakistan Army Act post-retirement had also been established against the former general, who also served as Peshawar corps commander.

The arrest was made in connection with a petition filed by the housing society's chief executive officer in the Supreme Court last year,

wherein Hamid was accused of land grabbing and stealing valuables from the owner of a private housing society during a raid.

Three more retired officers were also taken into military custody after Hamid's arrest in connection with the same housing scheme case. — (Geo News)

Continued From P1...

Formulate Cultural

The meeting was informed about the digitization of archival records which has been fully completed in Jammu and is 50% complete in Srinagar, with six lakh records being shifted to a new facility near Kala Kendra at a cost of Rs 7.2 crore.

The meeting also discussed the 100 days target for cultural and heritage development in Jammu and Srinagar.

Key initiatives include the operationalization of a new archival repository, modernization of the SRS Library under the Smart City Project, restoration of 16 heritage sites, and the completion of several library and cultural infrastructure projects.

A special presentation on Tehzeeb Mahal gave details of its design, architectural heritage revival, and cultural elements, further reinforcing the government's commitment to preserving and promoting J&K's rich legacy.

Over 31,000

people have been treated for drug de-addiction, and a toll-free helpline, 14446, has been established for immediate support."

Mehdi also inquired about the steps taken to address the issue, the increase in rehabilitation centres, the effectiveness of the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan' and the collaborative measures with international law enforcement agencies to counter drug trafficking from Pakistan.

The Ministry said more than 98 lakh people have been reached through NMBA in Jammu and Kashmir, and the department supports several de-addiction programs, including Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA), Outreach and Drop-In Centers (ODIC), and Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF).

"The government has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and participates in international forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to address cross-border drug trafficking," the ministry added

Ministerial committee

more disadvantageous to open merit candidates over the years.

Recently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had said that CSC would take a holistic view on the matter. "They have been asked to see what has happened so far and whether we have gone beyond the Supreme Court's recent directives or adhered to them," he said. Omar had assured that justice would be done with everyone and nobody would be deprived of their rights.

Temperature Drops

Celsius, marking the coldest night here while Sonamarg was the coldest place at minus 9.7 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, was the second coldest place, where the mercury settled at minus 9.0 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a low of minus 8.4 degree Celsius while Shopian in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 8.5 degree Celsius.

Also, Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded minus 4.5 degree Celsius. Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, the weatherman here has predicted no major weather activity till December 20th.

However, the MeT in its advisory, has said that the cold & dry weather will generally prevail over many stations during the next 7-10 days.

"In view of sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic

advisory," it added.

Moreover, the government has issued an advisory to halt all concreting operations in Kashmir due to plummeting subzero temperatures.

"Concrete exposed to freezing conditions is vulnerable to frost damage, which can interfere with proper cement hydration and curing. This leads to concrete failing to set correctly, compromising strength and safety," reads an advisory, a copy of which lies with KNO.

It reads that, in light of this, all concreting work is advised to stop until the temperature conditions improve. However, Rural Engineering Wing (REW) Executive Engineers may proceed with concreting operations if they ensure that all necessary precautions are taken. These include using antifreeze additives to support proper curing and ensuring all requirements are met. All REW engineers in the region are directed to comply with this advisory to ensure safety and maintain structural integrity.

Gadkari assures

Regarding the access point at Patwa Road Budgam (at Ch. 22.321), the minister, according to the letter, said, "I would like to inform you that an underpass without a slip road has been provisioned in the CA. The feasibility for constructing access from the crossroad to the Ring Road at Ch. 22.321 is being explored based on the availability of ROW, utilities shifting requirements, etc."

Gadkari also addressed specific issues related to access points and underpasses, including feasibility studies for new access points at Patwa Road Budgam. He said the government is also making progress on the construction of a footpath and a box culvert at Lalgam, Panzan.

J&K paid Rs

IGST being apportioned between the Union and the States/UTs on a monthly basis as per the Goods and Services Tax Settlement of Funds Rules, 2017. Provisional settlements are made depending on the un-apportioned IGST," it said.

It said that the government has also undertaken several reforms to improve GST compliance, based on the recommendations of the GST Council. "These reforms include measures like the e-way bill, ITC matching, e-invoice for B2C suppliers, Aadhaar authentication for registration, and targeted actions against non-filers and risky taxpayers, using artificial intelligence and machine-based analytics," it added.

Chief Secretary,

The other agenda items which were discussed in this SEC and find takers for their approval includes provisioning of Rs 50 lakhs on account of SDRF capacity building by conducting training programs, mock drills, other preparedness activities during the ensuing financial year. It also decided in favour of giving Rs 30 lakhs to the Department for upgradation of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) here in J&K. The Chief Secretary took this occasion to enquire from Deputy Commissioners about the disaster preparedness in their districts. He also took note of the suggestions forwarded by them.

The Principal Secretary, DMRR&R Department, Chandraker Bharti gave out details of the activities held by department during the year. He also highlighted the significance of each agenda item for augmenting the capacity of the UT to be better prepared against the disasters the region is prone to.

J&K Records

In 2022, the region recorded 173 cases, the highest in the three years, with 53 chargesheeted and one convicted. A total of 76 people were arrested, 79 chargesheeted, and one convicted under

cybercrime laws in the year.

The government has implemented several measures to combat cybercrime and financial fraud under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

"Launched in 2021, the 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' has facilitated the recovery of over ₹3431 crore in more than 9.94 lakh complaints, supported by a toll-free helpline number, 1930, for lodging online cyber complaints," it said, adding that proactive efforts by I4C have led to the identification and blocking of over 1700 Skype IDs and 59,000 WhatsApp accounts linked to digital fraud.

Also, more than 6.69 lakh SIM cards and 1,32,000 IMEIs have been blocked based on police reports until November 15, 2024.

The Central Government has also issued alerts about blackmail and digital arrest scams conducted by cybercriminals impersonating officials from agencies like NCB, CBI, and RBI. To address the misuse of international spoofed calls masquerading as Indian numbers, a system has been devised in collaboration with telecom service providers (TSPs) to detect and block such calls, which are commonly used in scams like fake digital arrests and impersonations.

Bond of Kashmiri

Lal's decision to remain in the Valley has been met with love and respect from his friend and the local community.

Today Lal lives in harmony... but is heartbroken today since his friend has left for heavenly abode.

Locals describe their friendship as a powerful lesson in unity, kindness, and resilience. Lal says with gratitude... I was born here and I will die here," he concluded. Their bond was not just a testament to personal loyalty but a legacy of peace that inspires hope across generations.

Darul Khair grieved over Khanyar blaze, extends support to affected families

SRINAGAR: Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil, on behalf of its Chairman Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr. Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the devastating fire incident at Tabardar Mohalla Gousia Colony, Khanyar Srinagar, which resulted in the complete destruction of a mosque, residential houses and the loss of all properties.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Darul Khair extended its profound sympathy and solidarity to the affected families.

NOTICE

This is for information of general public that my Son's name was Suhaib Showkat Rather, Now his name has been Changed to Suhaib Showkat and his KYC documents have also been updated Accordingly. Also i want to correct his name in his A/C: No 0727040800600871 in JK Bank Nishat park Bandipora. If any body has any objection he/she may file their objection in JK Bank Nishat park with in 15 days of this notice.

Name: Suhaib Showkat Minor through Mother Aarifa Begum.

S/O Showkat Ahmad Rather.

Adress:Nusso Bandipora.

Contact NO; 9797770513.

The organization emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive assistance and immediate rehabilitation to support those who have suffered in this tragic incident.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to community welfare, a delegation from Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil, led by Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon, visited the affected area.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Name and DOB of my Child has been Wrongly mentioned in their school records as Iffat Mehraj and DOB as 22-05-2011. While as actual and correct name and DOB is Iffhat Mehraj and DOB is 21-05-2011. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person has any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Principal Blooming Buds Computer School Plan Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mehraj u din Bhat.
F/O Iffhat Mehraj.
R/O Dachigam Bandipora.

NOTICE

I want to make corrections in the name and parentage of my son and daughter from Sheikh Danish Firdous to Danish Firdous Sheikh and Sheikh Rabiya Firdous to Rabiya Firdous in their school records at Greenland Public High School Delina Baramulla. The parentage has to be corrected from Sheikh Firdous Ahmad to Firdous Ahmad Sheikh. If anyone has any objection they should contact the school authorities within a week. No objections will be entertained after that.

Firdous Ahmad Sheikh
Delina Baramulla
9149773961

NOTICE

Areeb ul Islam, daughter of Mehraj ul Din Najar of Gundpora, a 3rd-grade student at Govt. Girls Middle School, Gundpora, is updating her date of birth to 06-10-2017. If anyone has any objections, they are requested to report to the school headmaster within seven days from today.

Hadayat un Nisa, daughter of Mehraj ul Din Najar of Gundpora, a 3rd-grade student at Govt. Girls Middle School, Gundpora, is updating her date of birth to 06-10-2017. If anyone has any objections, they are requested to report to the school headmaster within seven days from today.

India aim to avoid clean sweep against Aus as WC preparations face reality check

PERTH: A battered and bruised India will look to avoid a clean sweep and address some glaring issues ahead of next year's 50-over World Cup at home when they face Australia in the third and final women's ODI here on Wednesday.



The three-match series against the seven-time defending world champions has served as a harsh reality check for India, who have faltered in batting, bowling and fielding, with each area contributing to their struggles. A record 122-run defeat in the second ODI highlighted India's vulnerability. Even though the batters shone in patches, they never truly looked to chase down Australia's 371/8. In batting, the biggest disappointment has come from India's two big stars – skipper

Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana. Mandhana has capped scores of 8 and 9 in Australia following her century in India's 2-1 home series win over New Zealand in October. The flamboyant opener had been in

fine form earlier this year, scoring 450-plus runs at a 70-plus average and she would look to regain her form. Harmanpreet, on the other hand, failed to convert her starts with 57 runs from two matches as her captaincy and batting both have come under scrutiny following India's early exit from the T20 World Cup earlier this year. In absence of out-of-form opener Shafali Verma, India tried out some different combination and the bright spot has been the promising

return of Richa Ghosh, who slammed a spirited fifty at the top in the last ODI. Richa's 54 has been the highest score by an Indian batter in the series, in stark contrast to the two centuries and two fifties scored by Australian batters, highlighting the Amol

Muzumdar-coached side's batting struggles. In the opening ODI, only four Indian batters could reach double digits. The bowlers have also been off the mark, conceding eight runs in wides in the second ODI. The Indians were also guilty of dropping several crucial catches, allowing Australia to amass their third-highest ODI total of all time. "We need to bat a bit longer and bat a full 50 overs moving forward. In bowling, we need to go back and think about plans," Harmanpreet

said after the last game. Australia's next generation has stepped up in style in the series, with the Tahlia McGrath-led side delivering a dominant performance despite missing regular skipper Alyssa Healy. Uncapped 21-year-old Georgia Voll, handed the opener's role in Healy's absence, has been a revelation. On her debut in the first ODI, she displayed remarkable composure, anchoring a modest 101-run chase with an unbeaten 46. Voll followed it up with a stunning maiden century, forming a formidable partnership with veteran Ellyse Perry as the duo dismantled India's struggling bowling attack. For India, rookie leg-spinner Priya Mishra has been a bright spot in an otherwise challenging series. The 20-year-old has shown promise, picking up two wickets while defending a small total.

Squads

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Priya Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Uma Chetry, Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur and Saima Thakor.

Australia: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll and Georgia Wareham

Trott to continue as Afghanistan men's head coach through 2025

Jonathan Trott will continue as Afghanistan men's head coach till the end of 2025. His next assignment will be the ODI leg of Afghanistan's multi-format tour of Zimbabwe, but he will not take charge in the other formats for personal reasons. In his absence, Hamid Hassan will deputise as head coach and Nawroz Mangal as assistant coach. The Afghanistan Cricket Board has extended Trott's contract by 12 months following a highly successful 2024 for the team. The



year featured Afghanistan's first ever World Cup semi-final appearance following victories over New Zealand and Australia in the Group- and Super-Eights stages of the T20 event in the West Indies and the USA. They have since beaten both South Africa and Bangladesh in ODI series in Sharjah. Afghanistan's next major global tournament is a maiden appearance in the Champions Trophy next year. They qualified for the event after finishing among the top eight teams on the 2023 ODI World Cup points table, after a campaign that featured wins over England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Trott's tenure began in July 2022 with an 18-month stint that was renewed by a year in January 2024. Afghanistan have won 14 of the 34 ODIs and 20 of the 44 T20Is they have played since his appointment. The ongoing stint with Afghanistan is Trott's first as head coach. He was a consultant with Scotland during the 2021 T20 World Cup. As a player, he made 3835 runs in 52 Tests at an average of 44.08, and was a key figure in England's away Ashes victory in 2010-11. In ODI cricket, he made 2819 runs at an average of 51.25 with four hundreds and 22 fifties.

Harmanpreet, on the other hand, failed to convert her starts with 57 runs from two matches as her captaincy and batting both have come under scrutiny following India's early exit from the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

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Satish Sharma declares the 68th National School Games 2024-25 closed

Jharkhand emerges U-17 Girls Football Champion

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, FCS&CA and Transport, Satish Sharma, declared the 68th National School Games in four sports disciplines of Judo, Fencing, Wushu and Football closed in a grand valedictory ceremony at



General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. A total of around 4000 athletes and officials drawn from 44 state/UT/organisation teams across the country took part in these prestigious games, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI). While addressing a large gathering of participants, the Sports Minister extended gratitude to them for showing sporting spirit and discipline during this month long sporting extravaganza, helping its smooth and successful conclusion. Emphasising Government's commitment towards promoting genuine sports talent while ensuring that no individual or group would be allowed to politicize sports, the Sports Minister assured that only deserving athletes would be supported and those who have misused sports bodies for personal gain would be shown the door. Satish Sharma asserted, "let sports be the domain of the sportspersons only, adding only sportspersons should run the sports associations and organisations to yield better results, thus see J&K carving a space on India's sports map and budding athletes blossoming at the national scene". Extending gratitude to the parents, coaches and sports teachers for their unwavering support and encouragement of young athletes, the Minister also highlighted the broader benefits of sports, stating that it is essential in shaping well-rounded individuals, keeping the youth engaged and diverting them from the sedentary lifestyles. Secretary YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, while speaking on the occasion, stressed the role of the department in nurturing the sports talent at the grass-root level and instilling values of leadership, discipline and perseverance. He also congratulated the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, for successful completion of the 68th National School Games in Judo. He expressed confidence that the remaining three national championships would also be successfully organised. The glittering closing ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address by the Director General of YS&S, Rajinder Singh Tara. He spoke about the significance of such events, not only for promoting sports but also for fostering cultural exchange, brotherhood, and religious harmony among children. Highlighting the magnitude of the event, Tara informed that over 4,000 participants competed across various sports disciplines during the games, emphasising J&K's commitment towards nurturing budding athletes and promoting sports in every nook and corner of the Union Territory. The ceremony also witnessed an enthralling performance by famous Dogri singer Sonali Dogra. Meanwhile, Jharkhand clinched gold, Haryana bagged silver and Manipur claimed the bronze medal while Anushka Kumari of Jharkhand was declared as the Best Player in the U-17 Girls Football Championship. The Sports Minister, along with other dignitaries, distributed medals/trophies among the winners of Girls U-17 Girls Football Championship.